Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Envoy to CSSR on Troop Withdrawal From Angola

LD162020 Prague CTK in English 1940 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] Prague Feb 16 (CTK)—Withdrawal of the Cuban military contingent from Angola depends on the fulfillment of four necessary conditions, Cuban Ambassador Mario Rodriguez Martinez told journalists here today. The ambassador provided information on the talks of a joint Angolan-Cuban delegation with the United States in Angola from the beginning of February. The talks are aimed at setting the conditions of a just and honourable agreement on the basis of which Cuban troops would be withdrawn from Angola.

The ambassador listed the four conditions as follows:

"Firstly: an end to foreign interference in Angola's internal affairs, currently apparent in U.S. and South African logistics support for UNITA counter-revolutionary bands:,

Secondly, withdrawal of South African forces which systematically penetrate vast regions in the south and southeast of Angola:,

Thirdly, implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 435 which Provides for an end to the illegal occupation of Namibia by Pretoria troops and for granting freedom to this last colony on the continent:,

Fourthly, international guarantees that aggression will not be repeated against the Angolan People's Republic."

"If an agreement is reached on this basis, Angola and Cuba are prepared to observe the time-table of a gradual withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist military contingent", the ambassador stressed and added that during the twelve years which have elapsed since President Neto asked for Cuban assistance, over 300,000 Cubans have fulfilled their internationalist mission in Angola.

Commentary Views U.S.-Panamanian Relations

PA190422 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Feb 88

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] The tension between Panamanian and U.S. authorities over Washington's intention to violate the spirit of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties has grown particularly intense during the last few days. Without a doubt, this is a new show of arrogance by the United States against a nation that, almost since its inception, has lived with a fifth border imposed at the very center of its territory, as the late Panamanian leader General Omar Torrijos eventually charged.

To the current U.S. Administration, relinquishing the Canal Zone, dismantling the military bases there, and moving the Southern Command out of an area that is of particular importance to the imperialist strategy for Latin American is not a pleasant idea, to say the least. To avoid these consequences, which are clearly stated in the 1979 protocol, the United States is bent on forcing the figures who defend the Torrijist ideal in Panama to retire in order to replace them with a pliant government that will agree to change the treaties to permit the United States to maintain its military presence in Panama and, in fact, in the very heart of Latin America.

Therefore, the struggle of patriotic Panamanian sectors to assert the nation's dignity transcends the country's borders to emerge as a cause that deserves, at the very least, the respect of all nations.

The tool to carry out the destabilization effort is the Panamanian rightist sector, which is displeased with the policy of distancing itself from Washington and, therefore, of severing all ties, from which this group profits substantially. It is the bourgeois social class that fully identifies with the interests of foreign monopolies. Its real interest, disguised as patriotism, is to make small-scale reproductions of foreign role models.

It would be worth noting, moreover, that throughout the years, Panama has played an important role in the search for a Latin American solution to the crisis in the continental isthmus, and has performed outstandingly in the Contadora Group and the Nonaligned Movement. Furthermore, worthy Panamanians utterly reject the U.S. military presence and, specifically, the use of the Southern Command to carry out aggressive actions against neighboring countries, such as Nicaragua. In a recent statement, Panama Defense Forces officers pointed out, precisely, that the 10,000 U.S. troops that comprise the Southern Command direct and support operations in Central America aimed primarily at Nicaragua.

Nevertheless, the aggressive actions continue. Taken in conjunction with the attacks against General Manuel Antonio Noriega, these actions promote the emergence of rightist coalitions, such as the so-called National Civic Crusade. In addition, suspicious military movements are conducted in the Caribbean and Central America, such as the ones that will begin next week in that area, which very closely parallel Vice President George Bush's threats of aggression against Panama if it insists on demanding the removal of the Southern Command from the Canal Zone.

Penitentiary System, New Penal Code Discussed

FL130134 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish0200 GMT 9 Feb 88

[From "Wide Angle "program by Pedro Martinez Pirez; speakers identified by caption—recorded]

[Text] [Martinez Pirez] Despite the U.S. propaganda against Cuba, it is known that the Cuban penitentiary system is essentially humane and one of the most modern in this continent and, generally, in the Third World.

That is why "Wide Angle" will once again report on the Cuban penitentiary system, however, from a new angle. We will see the impact the modifications to the existing Cuban penal code will have on the penitentiary system. These were extensively debated during the last session of the National Assembly of the People's Government.

Our program will include testimony from prisoners, former prisoners, family members, Cuban jurists, and a representative to the United Nations whose specialty is crime prevention and penal justice.

[Narrator] In Cuba, society values people the highest. The revolutionary government has been concerned since 1959 with guaranteeing the complete dignity of man and his liberty, the enjoyment of his rights, and the fulfillment of his responsibilities.

Every Cuban has a right to work, education, and free medical and dental attention in a country which has launched a persistent struggle against the (?remnants) of the past, such as prostitution, drugs, gambling, administrative corruption, and other crimes. Even though Cuban society is not perfect, culture has developed. Our health statistics are recognized internationally and our people are healthier and freer.

Crime exists even after almost 30 years of revolutionary power but not in the quantity or degree of dangerousness in which it existed in previous times or in the magnitude that crime exists in countries that maintain unjust structures. These were eliminated by the Cuban people in 1959.

[Martinez Pirez] Dr Pedro David—of Argentine nationality—is the UN advisor on crime prevention and penal justice.

[David] The United Nations has expressly recommended that governments review their penal codes to bring them up to date with the firm purpose of reducing the penitentiary population and, at the same time, avoiding the judicial delays that constitute a very serious problem in accessing justice throughout the world.

For example, in Latin America almost 70 percent of those in prison are waiting to be sentenced because of the great judicial delay that exists and almost all of them serve their sentences while waiting for a decision to be made. This is a profound violation of all human rights. This is generally not known, but to give you just a single example, I visited a country where the judicial delay was so great that there was an excess of prisoners. They had 1.5 million pending cases and even if they did not receive any more cases that year, they still would have needed 15 years to get out of that serious intermediate situation.

In Europe, and in many other areas of the world, penal adjustments [despenalizacion], detypification [destipificacion] of non-serious crimes, constitute a [words indistinct] tendency, but a profound [words indistinct]. First of all, one cannot believe that prison is the ideal means for readaptation. If this century has shown us anything, it is the profound failure of a prison that does not reeducate, that does not readapt, that separates a man from his family and turns him into a monster after a long imprisonment. These prisoners that are released generally return.

That is why the most modern countries have tried to create alternatives to prison and at the same time utilize to the maximum other punishments that do not violate rights or deprive liberty, such as fines, community work which they are required to perform during certain hours, supervision, and several other methods of applying punishments.

All these ideas are incorporated in the Cuban proposal. I can say that it links Cuba's legal reality to its social reality, to the principles that form its social, economic, and general policies.

I should tell you that dignity is a norm in Cuban prisons. As the code says, they try to apply a progressive regime, respecting dignity and reeducation, taking into account the conditions that motivated the crime, learning about the accused person, as well as considering social security problems that may require compensating the victim.

[Narrator] There is no climate of violence in our country, there is no organized crime, there are no bank robbers, drug addicts, and no high criminal rate. Prostitution, as such, has disappeared and only some cases, which are generally linked to family and social maladjustments, are seen. Gambling has also been basically supressed. Few truly serious crimes occur. This places Cuba in an infinitely better position than any other country of the continent, especially the United States, which has had to give up on numerous crimes in many cases. [video shows crimes being committed in the United States]

An increase in what is technically known as felonies does not characterize the Cuban national scene but there has been an increase of less serious crimes such as thefts and other misdemeanors in the last few years. They should be supressed not only by the police and tribunals but by society and its organizations as a whole in order to attack the causes and update penal legislation. [video shows members of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution] This is what motivated the in-depth debate on the modifications to the Penal Code which took place during the last period of sessions of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] of Cuba aimed at taking an additional strategic and necessary step forward toward the improvement of legislation which directly influences the Cuban penitentiary system.

[Dr Raul Gomez Treto, Cuban jurist] I believe the modifications that have just been introduced by the ANPP to the current Penal Code, which will be in effect within the next few months, were not made in a whimsical or willful way. They respond to a historic Cuban situation. There was a time when severe sanctions were necessary. The prevailing

situation of attacks on the country, on the lack of development of the social and political consciousness, demanded that kind of treatment. Time showed that conditions were different and that extremely severe treatment in many cases was even counterproductive. The penal measure is not punishment, it is not to punish people because they commit a crime but to find a mechanism that attempts to reeducate and reincorporate the person to society and make him a useful person. This is even more evident in a socialist society which requires all of us to work to develop the country. So, after some time went by, another type of treatment was needed. A treatment in which severity sometimes yields to more rational and adequate social and state mechanisms to treat a person. We have a higher educational development level in the country, a higher pedagogic, teaching system that can be introduced in prisons, a series of factors that the new penal law, the modifications, will make easier to apply. It is not a purely ethical or humanistic matter which says we are better now that we are more flexible. No, it is an objective social need. I believe that the revolution, the country's leadership, has been adjusting that popular sentiment and that rationale to the historic moment we are living. I believe that today's penal mechanism is not only healthier for society, even for the victim—if it is not a murder case—to the sanctioned one, for relatives of the sanctioned person, but ultimately for social development.

[Narrator] Penal tribunals filed over 1.5 million cases in the entire country between 1980 and 1986. Only 10.2 percent of them involved felonies. Out of the total number of cases filed, 51.7 percent fell under only four types of crimes: theft, traffic violations, injuries, threats and coercion.

[Martinez Pirez] Dr Kautzman, the modifications recently made to the Penal Code in Cuba have been referred to depenalization and detypification. I would like for you to explain the terms and tell us if it is exclusive of Cuba or if it has been done abroad.

[Victor Kautzman Torres, jurist and sociologist] First, there are different views on the validity of the two terms. Depenalization implies the removal of the penalty. That is, to remove the penalty from a certain crime and turn it into something else such as a personal misdemeanor or an administrative violation as it was formerly called. Detypification involves the elimination of the crime from the Penal Code. Those terms are interrelated but ultimately they lighten the severity of the Penal Code. Depenalization and detypification is a modern current within the penal law which intends for jurist activity, that is, the action taken by tribunals, to be more rational, more just, and ultimately more humane through the incorporation to the penal justice system—and specifically to the penal legislation—of alternate sanctions to the loss of freedom. In our case it could be correctional work with or without internment, or others which would not necessarily require detention as sanction to the perpetrator of the crime. In any case, we should consider depenalization or detypification as a whole because several steps, several measures, several actions are implied in them which tend to lighten up the penal code. At times, they are even considered in the adjective law, that is, the penal procedural law, and even in the organization of the judicial system proper. Steps taken from different angles to essentially avoid the loss of freedom continue to be used as the most frequent sanction in any given country. Depenalization and detypification broadens the judicial discretion so the judge or the tribunal can choose from an array of possibilities the adequate sanction according to the threat of the individual, to the fact that it is a first-time or repeated offense, to the fact that the matter will have a large social effect, or if financial damages are involved, etc. That is, the judge will have more freedom of action so the sanction will correspond more closely to the matter in question.

[Screen shows photograph of Jose Marti with illegible caption]

[Camaguey female inmate] The treatment given to the (?combatants) is the best. At least the treatment given to me has been the best. I believe all of us can say the same thing. I believe there is a good chance for me to stay and work here. I feel good because I have been treated well. I do not see why I shouldn't stay and work here. Besides being a prison it is also a work center. Many civilians work here as well as many former inmates. Some fellow inmates [words indistinct]. The ministry gives the opportunity to all those who want to work here to work here. One has to think a little on the steps one takes in life to get involved in a situation like this one.

[Narrator] From 1980 to 1986, 227,000 traffic violations were committed in Cuba; 92.5 percent of them were for driving without a license, drinking and driving or other serious violations.

[Martinez Pirez] Dr Ceballos, you have worked for over 25 years as a defense lawyer in Cuba.

[Dr Mario Ceballos Arrieta] Yes.

[Martinez Pirez] Do the recent modifications to the Cuban Penal Code help or hinder your work?

[Ceballos] Undoubtedly, everything that was approved recently by the ANPP helps the work of defense attorneys.

[Martinez Pirez] Why?

[Ceballos] Why? Because the current code has a number of limitations in terms of the application of sanctions by the tribunal which, according to the law, is forced to consider certain circumstances. For example, if a person has committed other crimes, if he has a criminal record, at the time the sanction is going to be applied, it is mandatory to increase the level of the sanction because he is considered a repeat offender.

That will not be so now. Now the tribunal has a wider margin. The judicial discretion—the authority the tribunal has to apply the sanction—is largely broadened. Undoubtedly, that helps the work of the defense because many times the work of the defense is aimed at having the most favorable sanction applied. In addition, new sanctions are created which replace the loss of freedom sanction such as correctional work without internment. This replaces or can replace up to 3 years of loss of freedom. Currently, that can only be done with the sanction called limitation of freedom which is also maintained in the new code. Probation [remision condicional] is likewise maintained. For sanctions of up to 3 years, the tribunal can declare in suspense the application of the sanctions. Naturally, all this can be done considering the background of the case, the personality of the defendant, and the circumstances that favor the case.

[Second Camaguey female inmate] The work here is broad, it is beautiful. One has to live it to really appreciate it. You can appreciate a part of it. I can appreciate it in its totality here. But this is of no use if when we go back to society we are not welcome, not accepted the way we are, the way we are when we get out, with the wish to incorporate ourselves into the development, the construction of socialism which we were not able to understand before coming here.

[Martinez Pirez] Dr Alvarino, Dr Ceballos told us he believes the modifications to the Penal Code benefit his work as defense attorney. I would like to listen to your opinion on the matter.

[Dr Jose A. Alvarino Martinez, defense attorney] I believe so, I agree with Dr Ceballos not only because of the reasons he mentioned, but also because a number of new institutions have been created to sanction the individual who commits crimes. For example, there is correctional work with internment and correctional work without internment. Undoubtedly, it makes it a lot easier because there is a greater variety, more diverse alternatives to suggest to the tribunal. That is, to ask for that individual be treated in this or that manner, if the conditions apply. On the other hand, sanctions of some crimes have been lighten in cases where there is not much threat and in other crimes there is the alternative of applying a fine or loss of freedom. That gives the tribunal a larger discretion to be able to apply the sanctions according to the personal characteristics of each defendant, of each individual who is found to be guilty [responsable], according to his personality and circumstances.

[Martinez Pirez] Is it fair to say that the modifications have turned the Penal Code into a more realistic and flexible instrument?

[Alvarino] I believe so. Yes, there is no doubt that the modifications stem from reality, from practice. This has been confirmed through tribunals and justice organs.

[Martinez Pirez] In your opinion doctor, can these changes to the Penal Code help in any way to improve the penitentiary system in Cuba?

[Alvarino] Yes.

[Martinez Pirez] Why?

[Alvarino] Because perhaps not as many individuals will be sanctioned with loss of freedom. The tribunal did not use to have that leeway and some behaviors had to be punished according to what the code established. Having these other alternatives, the ones I mentioned, the tribunal does not necessarily have to send an individual to a penitentiary institution. It can opt for this other kind of treatment. Thus, there would not be as many detained, imprisoned people.

[Narrator] Cuban police reported a little over 123,000 crimes; 18.5 percent of them fall into the category which is technically known as felonies. But in our country, the theft of a pair of pants or of a pigeon on the roof—if the perpetrator had to go through a window or jump from one roof to another—has been considered a felony.

[Martinez Pirez] You say this is a process, and this code, these modifications respond to the situation?

[Dr Raul Gomez Treto] Yes, to the situation, and criminal problems now are not the same as those 20 years ago. Many of the crimes committed 20 years ago in the country were counterrevolutionary actions, sabotage, enemy infiltration. Nevertheless, we found that a large portion of crimes are committed by workers, sometimes by workers with [word indistinct] but because of certain circumstances—their family or outside influences—they make an error and commit a crime. Sometimes they aren't even aware it's a crime.

They are treated differently. The majority of them are workers. Yes, they have committed a crime and the law is severe and just but they are not enemies of the people; they are part of the people. Sometimes they are revolutionaries. [?Sometimes they] are CIA agents. There are still a few of them but not many. It seems there is not as much incentive for them.

[Martinez Pirez] Has the punishment changed for CIA agents?

[Gomez Treto] I'll tell you something. I said this in some documents that were published. I think penal law—it seems to me—is law of (?reception). It is important the people know how to use it because law has many branches. There are legal measures for certain conducts. It may be nothing more than a civil action or a fine. It can be an economic factor, a disciplinary measure at work that will make him think and reconstruct his life. It may be an administrative measure, a fine, such as those we impose throughout the country, an administrative fine that can be repeated if necessary.

But when the case is very serious, when there are no other mechanisms, or we do not have any other legal medicine, then we have our penal codes. This is a very large area. The new modifications provide a large range so the judge can have more leeway in choosing what is more just. Nevertheless, we have stiffer sanctions, such as deprivation of liberty for several years. We have a wide-range of choices.

I have had this in some of my cases. It is not that we are saving things in a cabinet and studying them. We are maintaining the theoretical tools of law.

Imagine, if we had an outbreak of sabotage, infiltration. We have maintained the (?law) and can implement it once again. Medicine is given to each patient. If this is the crime, we give him that medicine. We get another patient and we have another medicine for him. These are disciplinary measures, not penal, labor, administrative, or civil measures.

Now, let's say there is an outbreak, a cataclysm caused by the enemy which is out of our control. We have medicine for those cases and we apply it again.

Law is an extensive field and we cannot limit ourselves to sanctions or fines for everything. There are many measures. The law has many levels, civil, administrative, labor, and economic. We also have some penal codes that can be very severe or less severe depending on the social needs of constructing a society, of constructing a new man or woman.

[Unidentified journalist] What do you plan to do after you fulfill you sanction?

[Third Camaguey female inmate] Well, I want to become a part of society again, like I was before. I want to work, give my children a good education.

[Journalist] Where would you like to work?

[Inmate] [Pauses]

[Journalist] What would you like to do?

[Inmate] I have always wanted to be a teacher but... [does not finish sentence]

[Journalist] What happens?

[Inmate] I don't know.

[Journalist] What are you worried about?

[Inmate] I'm afraid it won't be like it was before. I don't know. I'm afraid they'll look down at me because I was in prison. I don't know. There are a lot of things. I have an idea (?of what I'll do) but it may not be that way.

[Journalist] How would you like people to see you?

[Inmate] As always, I would like people to see me as another revolutionary in this society.

[Martinez Pirez] Dr David, you have extensive knowledge of problems of world crime. In your opinion, what are the main causes of crime in the various nations that compose the United Nations?

[David] I believe crime always involves a problem of prevention, education, and socialization. It is the combined effort of basic institutions such as family, school, all types of organizations, the atmosphere of values, the situation of social justice, the availability of health services and jobs. The best kind of crime prevention is anything that has to do with human welfare and dignity. Social and economic justice cannot be separated from the problems of crimes.

Up to now, Latin American jails have been warehouses of...[leaves sentence unfinished] As a great criminal lawyer friend of ours said—he died at the end of last year, Professor Manuel Lopez Rey, he was a great exiled Spanish jurist—Latin American prisons are full of poor devils, of those whose economic insecurity, unemployment, lack of resources, ignorance, lack of possessions, and marginality, push them to commit crimes while the big criminals, powerful organizations, those who have economic and social resources, are never imprisoned. So, I believe there is a close link between motivation, availability of a just and honorable life and the inclination toward committing a crime.

In that sense, I believe the efforts Cuba is making are praise-worthy. I should add that I have been pleasantly surprised by the recent reforms approved by the ANPP [National Assembly of the People's Government] which coincide in many aspects with UN suggestions. Among them are the reduction and detypification of many crime categories that have no reason for being included in the Penal Code. Up to now, the Penal Code has been used in all countries, especially during this century—and do not forget we are approaching a third millenium. It has been used for everything, even though they were supposed to rehabilitate or reeducate, they actually repressed. I believe the detypification of less serious behaviors is a very important step. The creation of alternatives to prison, the progressive system of reeducation instead of time in prison, and fines as deterrents will bring shorter processing periods and free those tribunals that cannot take care of important cases because of the large number of minor cases. Secondly, they will also avoid overcrowded prisons. So the guilty person can pay his sentence by working, paying fines, indemnifying the victim, and prison will be left—as the United Nations recommends—for those who cannot be sanctioned in any other way because they are a threat to public safety, social safety.

[Narrator] In Cuba it is believed that the solution to the crime problem does not lie in repression, especially for those people—youths above all—who do not need or

deserve that type of sanction. Cuba is a peaceful country where one lives safely. Among the factors that cause less serious crimes—conditioned by centuries of colonialism and neocolonialism—are problems of housing, family, education, inherited social indiscipline, lack of respect for the law, and the deficiencies and mistakes that are being tackled slowly but vigorously in this rectification stage which creates an atmosphere where principles, ethical, and moral values prevail.

[Martinez Pirez] At what age do criminal laws apply?

[Alvarino] In this country people have to respond to actions that are considered crimes at the age of 16.

[Martinez Pirez] So, this was not changed.

[Alvarino] No, no. It is the same as established in the previous Penal Code. This has not changed. There is one special circumstance. The code takes age into consideration for those people who are less than 20-years-old.

[Martinez Pirez] Those who are between 16 and 20 years of age.

[Alvarino] Between 16 and 20. The code gives the tribunal the chance to consider that personal characteristic. This is the individual who is at the dawn of his life and the lack of experience and lack of contact with certain circumstances could have made him commit a certain type of crime. As a result, the tribunal can apply a sanction. If the sanction is loss of freedom the minimum sentence can be reduced by one half.

There is more. In accordance with an agreement made by the Council of Government of the Supreme Tribunal, the courts are able to reduce a minimum sentence if it seems excessive in relation to the act's degree of danger or if the individual has some personal characteristics which make the minimum sanction seem extremely severe. It can be reduced from a serious sentence to a moderate one. A thief can get a 2-year sentence. The basic sentence is 6 months. A thief's sentence can be reduced to 6 months, the basic sentence.

[Martinez Pirez] What about, for example, those people over the age of 60? Is it still as strict?

[Alvarino] The article that establishes the adjustment or confers the power to the tribunal enabling it to reduce the sanction for minors has a subsequent chapter stating that the tribunal can reduce by one-third the minimum limits of sanctions for people over the age of 60. As I said, it was decided by the Council of Government of the Supreme People's Tribunal to reduce the basic term of certain crimes when taking into account an individual person and the personal characteristics of the act itself. It is permissible to apply a sanction that is less strict.

[Maritza Gallardo, mother of inmate] I would recommend to parents who have not had to go through this that they should remember that children come here because they've made a mistake. Anyone can make a mistake whether he is old or young. The female comrades who work here, because of their nature or the way they feel, know how to educate those girls. But when they come here, we don't give up our responsibility and give it to them. That is when, more than ever, we have to step in and help because they are our children.

[Narrator] Many people from different countries frequently visit our jails and are left with a strong impression and admiration for the sensible, profoundly humane nature of our penitentiary system and its reeducation goals. The goal is to send to jail only those who are a real danger to society. Once there, they work toward their reeducation.

[(Haydee Chevero), Venezuela] I am from Venezuela. The Cuban Government invited me here. I've been in this prison for almost 2 hours, more than 2 hours, and I must confess that I am very moved. I had to put my glasses on so you could not see my eyes (?fill with tears).

There is no prison, no matter how distant the town, where the prison director would risk letting a group of tourists loose in the prison and have those tourists come out again safe and sound and content. [sentence as heard] I don't know if that happens anywhere else in the world. This is absolutely impossible in Venezuela.

I am very pleased to have seen this because many bad things are said about Cuban prisons. No one will be able to take away my impression of this. I am very pleased they let me come here. I think that if you have to be imprisoned, this is the only way to do it because one can recover and become what he was not before.

[Maria Frever, Argentina] I am also surprised and moved by what I have seen in this prison. It is extraordinary and shows what socialism can do. I would like to say that people here are treated better in prison than the people who are free in the United States. I congratulate Cuba for what it has achieved with socialism and I am more convinced than ever that I will return to the United States to continue struggling for socialism, if this is what it can accomplish.

[Evangelina Martinez, Mexico] I am deeply moved. I feel like my chest will burst from the emotion. I am Mexican and I will try and convey what I have seen because many people do not believe it, right?

[Martinez Pirez] What is the most important thing for a defense attorney? For example, in socialist Cuba, from an ethical point of view, what is more important: victory in court, acquittal for the accused, or the just application of the law?

[Dr Jose Alvarino Martinez] I think for an adequate analysis of the matter, one must consider that the lawyer is a member of society. As a member of society, he is interested in seeing justice done. An attorney should not want to see a (?truant), a rogue, a [word indistinct], an individual who is a legal (?problem) for society, freely doing what he wants to do. Not than an attorney would do this. It would be absurd. The lawyer has to see that this individual receives a fair trial, no matter who he is, even if he's the worst of all those accused of crimes. He not only has to make sure he receives a fair trial; he has to make sure the law is applied with equity by using the resources made available by the law. The attorney has to make sure that all the guarantees provided by law are fulfilled. If the defendant is innocent and the attorney is convinced of this, he has to try all methods available to him by law to prove his innocence.

I don't know if I've answered your question.

[Martinez Pirez] Yes, I think so. Dr Ceballo said that, although he knows of no case in which this has happened, a defendant can reject the work of a court-appointed attorney because of discrepancies or incompatibility. Now in the case of a court-appointed attorney, since the defendant is a rogue or a (?truant) as you said, can he refuse to defend the accused?

[Alvarino Martinez] He should not refuse because every accused person has a right to a defense. This has been established by the Constitution of the Republic, as well as the laws related to the penal process. I think anyone will tell you that everyone has a right to a defense.

As I was saying, the lawyer has to make sure he receives a fair trial. The court-appointed attorney has no reason to refuse to defend the individual. Sometimes there are subjective factors that make the individual believe the defendant is guilty. It is possible that later there will be things, acts, circumstances that show he is not as guilty as one thought initially. I think every individual, no matter who he is, has a right to a defense, an adequate defense.

[Martinez Pirez] Is punishment the goal of sanctions or is it the fundamental factor of Cuban law in reeducating those who commit crimes?

[Alvarino Martinez] It is reeducation, reintegration, so the individual can be reintegrated into society and he can continue being a useful person to society, his family, and himself.

It is not an attempt to destroy the individual. If possible, it is an attempt to reconstruct that person's morality, his personal situation. Young men have entered penitentiary systems and have been released with a job skill. Once they have a skill, they do not commit crimes again. They have led honest working lives and that event, which was a disgrace, was neutralized by an education they could defend themselves with.

[Former inmates, served 10 years and 9 months] [Video shows two men with journalist but only one of them speaks] Let me tell you about the experience we acquired here, the treatment. The person who comes here has deviated a little in his attitude or his morality. He is capable of taking with him when he leaves a new system of living, a new education. Why? Because of the way he's treated here, because of the political work done with inmates so they can rejoin society in the future. I don't know if you understand what I'm trying to tell you. That is our opinion.

That is the way we saw it. We got here and began working early. We continued working and we received more education. We had finished ninth grade so we proceeded with advanced studies. I learned more skills. I studied to be a construction technician. My brother also became a construction technician. We taught here. I was a nurse here in this unit until I was released. My brother worked here in the statistics center and [word indistinct].

We left with the best impression of this place not just because of the way they treated us, but because of the way they treated everyone. People who arrive here may have deviated but they have the right to recover what they lost. That can be done here.

[Martine Pirez] Even though the propaganda against Cuba alleging human rights violations, especially in the penitentiary systems, has been defeated in international forums, they continue to say that there are political prisoners in Cuba. What is your opinion? Are there political prisoners in Cuba?

[Victor Kautzman Torres] Evidently, there are no political prisoners in Cuba. As everyone knows, this idea is the result of a campaign that the enemy has been waging for a year now. They say there are political prisoners in Cuba and they even give statistics. This is false. There are no political prisoners.

Our Penal Code covers what we call crimes against state security. Most countries, which we know of, have this in their penal codes. Certain activities are sanctioned, such as piracy, terrorism, sabotage, and other acts which we call crimes against the foreign security of the state and crimes against the interior security of the state. All countries which have a modern penal system include these crimes in their penal codes and severely sanction them. We do the same.

There are counterrevolutionary prisoners in Cuba, people who have committed an act that is very harmful to our society and, specifically, to state security in its various modes. But no one is being detained or in prison for expressing their opinions or opposing the concepts of our social system.

We know this is a topic that is constantly used by the enemy. I think this question is very appropriate because it gives me the opportunity to say that there are no political prisoners, but rather there are counterrevolutionary prisoners.

["Undesirable" Marielito, reincorporated into Cuban society] [video shows man sitting in a rocking chair] In the prison [words indistinct] in the patio. If someone remained, they would go back and get him and put him in an area called (cerecho), which means captive. It is a location for captives. The prisoner would be taken there. There was a lieutenant there. The word in English is lieutenant. There they would punch the prisoner in the stomach. They mistreated him. It was like a kind of torture. Then the lieutenant would start talking and begin to walk around us. When we didn't... [does not finish sentence] he would hit us like this around the head. He said, didn't I tell you there are laws here saying you have to do this and that. This is not Cuba. You are not in Cuba. You are in the United States and things are different here. You are black. [words indistinct] they treated the white man the same way they treated the black man.

[(Marvin F. Caramillo), in English with consecutive Spanish translation] In comparison to prisons that I know would be considered maximum security in the United States, this is not very maximum. It doesn't seem very oppressive in terms of the way it's structured. We had an opportunity to fraternize with the inmates [Translator adds: Even though it was for a short time] and also I liked very much the correctional officers here [Translator adds: He is very impressed with the guards' manner, their behavior. They were very courteous and friendly].

[Portuguese director, in Spanish] It was a very interesting visit for me. I had an image of Cuba. The man is in prison because he made a mistake. [Words indistinct] and they are recovering. It left me with an unforgettable impression because this does not normally occur in capitalist countries, including mine, Portugal. Campaigns are often carried out abroad against socialist countries, like the one against Cuba and its prisons. I will return to my country and give a news conference on what I saw. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be here.

[Narrator] The Penal Code, which is in the process of being reformed, was approved by Law No 21 in February 1979 but the legislation that regulates the Cuban penal system is also based on the Constitution of the Republic, which was approved 24 February 1976 and other laws and agreements of the Council of Government of the Supreme People's Tribunal.

[Martinez Pirez] Did you participate in the trial against Luis Orlando Dominguez last year?

[Dr Mario Ceballos Arrieta] Yes.

[Martinez Pirez] I would like to know if crimes, such as those committed by Dominguez, are now more strictly punished.

[Ceballos Arrieta] Yes, that type of crime is more seriously punished. The National Assembly approved the reforms increasing the sanction for crimes such as embezzlement. In addition, it provides for the confiscation of goods.

[Martinez Pirez] Dr Ceballos, how long can the police detain a person without notifying legal authorities?

[Ceballos Arrieta] The police have 24 hours after they've detained someone to notify the police instructor, who is a specialist within the police department responsible for the preparation of the case. The police instructor has 72 hours to release the accused or report him to the prosecutor. The prosecutor has 72 hours to resolve this case [words indistinct] or release him. What the prosecutor decides in those 72 hours has to be ratified, revoked, or modified by the tribunal, which also has 72 hours. The total period of time is 10 days, the police have 24 hours; the police instructor has 72; the prosecutor 72; and the tribunal also has 72.

[Martinez Pirez] Doctor, when is the accused considered innocent?

[Ceballos Arrieta] Until he receives a guilty sentence and it remains firm.

[Martinez Pirez] And this is not firm until...

[Ceballos Arrieta, interrupting] Until there is an appeal, if the trial was held in a municipal tribunal. The law allows an appeal to be made to the provincial tribunal. Proof is reproduced at this time. If the trial was held in the provincial tribunal, the cassation process is the resource that allows an appeal to be brought before the Supreme People's Tribunal. This is a technical resource where proof is not reintroduced. A hearing is held at the supreme tribunal with the prosecutor and defense attorney present and they discuss the application of the law to the acts that were proved by the provincial tribunal during sentencing. This cannot be discussed during the cassation process.

This resource can be used if the system breaks down, if the procedures are violated, or there is an infringement of the law when the problem is being discussed or when the law is applied to the acts proved by the provincial tribunal.

[Martinez Pirez] Is the process of habeas corpus practiced in Cuba?

[Ceballos Arrieta] Yes, the habeas corpus process is considered by law. It is another guarantee that exists to protect the accused from being detained without fulfilling the proper formalities and guarantees established by law.

[Martinez Pirez] Have you ever applied that resource as an attorney?

[Ceballos Arrieta] I have applied it on several occasions when a person was detained without the authorities following the procedures established by law.

[Former inmate, fulfilled 2 years and 9 months sentence] When I was released on probation, the captain, (Conchitiana Pimentel), very kindly told me and another comrade, who was released with me, that if we wanted to work in this penitentiary center we could. We had our jobs. I was a seamstress at the time. The truth was that even though we were prisoners and we had our own families, we had a good relation with the combatants. The treatment here was good. All this influenced me to join this work center. I came here to work.

I though at first I would feel uncomfortable coming to work here as a civilian, but no. I saw the same faces when I came in. You see the same combatants here. When they were prisoners they were treated well and they receive the same treatment as civilians.

You would never see any indication of displeasure on their faces. On the contrary, they welcome you. They take you in. They make you want to continue working here. They show you affection.

We can thank the revolution and the ministry for the opportunity to work in civilian Minint [Ministry of the Interior] work centers. We could not do this before. Now there are more people working here and we are useful to society.

[Dr Pedro R. David] I think the Cuban draft, which I have seen but not extensively studied, is a big step, very advanced, and the Cuban Justice Minister Juan Escalona, Interior Minister Mr Abrahantes, and Attorney General Mr Ramon de la Cruz should be congratulated, as well as all those who participated in the reform.

Code Presented at UN Meeting

FL190220 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2058 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Cuban Attorney General Ramon de la Cruz presented one of the first copies of the new Penal Code at the corresponding UN organization in Vienna today. Attorney Eduardo Baterre, chief of the UN crime prevention branch, introduced De la Cruz. Baterre acknowledged that Cuba was inspired in the resolutions of that international organization for the preparation of the new code.

For his part (Pedro Ave), regional advisor for that branch, said that during his recent visit to our country, he was able to notice the disclosure and attention given by the Cuban Government to the principles and resolutions in social justice matters.

The new Cuban Penal Code was presented before the United Nations while the forum was debating the role of the United Nations in crime prevention. The meeting is part of the preparations for the eighth congress on the subject which will take place in 2 years.

British Official Joins Human Rights Campaign

FL181949 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] (Timothy Higar), British deputy secretary of state for foreign affairs, has joined the campaign against Cuba, Afghanistan, and Syria.

The campaign is clearly headed by the United States at the UN Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva. The main purpose of the U.S. delegation's maneuvers is to obtain the approval of a document that accuses the Cuban Government of human rights violations. These accusations have been duly proved false with concrete proof presented by Cuba.

(Higar) took an ambiguous position today in his speech. He equally attacked repressive regimes and independent governments while also practicing self-indulgence. The British official ignored accusations that London cooperates with the dictatorial regimes of Chile and South Africa and that English troops occupying Northern Ireland are under orders to shoot to kill the nationalists.

It is expected that a growing confrontation will arise at the Geneva forum this afternoon when the discussions reach the complex problem of missing persons. Delegates from Chile, Guatemala, El Salvador, and other Central and South American countries will present proof that people are missing and blame the respective regimes of those nations, practically all of which are backed by the United States.

Washington is certain to present so-called dissidents who will make accusations against other countries, especially socialist nations. Those accusations, which many times are distorted and other times totally false, are expected to be especially virulent in an effort to detract from the presence of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in terms of a political confrontation. [sentence as heard]

'Arafat will give a press conference tomorrow in which he will accuse Israel of perpetrating a massacre in the occupied Arab territories and the United States of complicity in these crimes.

Official Denounces UK Human Rights Violations

FL190348 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Julio Heredia, Cuban representative to the 44th session of the UN Human Rights Commission, denounced in Geneva today the prevailing tensions in Great Britain regarding human rights violations. Responding to remarks made by the British deputy secretary of state for foreign affairs, Heredia pointed out that even the British press has revealed in the past 2 weeks facts that brought to light how human rights are violated in the United Kingdom.

ECLA Executive Secretary Meets Rodriguez

FL180418 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba, has met with ECLA Executive Secretary (Bir Rosenthal), who is paying an official visit to our country.

(Rosenthal) submitted to Rodriguez the studies which were recently completed and show that the current Latin American economic crisis worsened in 1987 due to a loss of economic strength accompanied by inflation.

Meets CECE Head

FL181421 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] (Bir Rosenthal), executive secretary of the ECLA of the UN Economic and Social Council, has met with Ernesto Melendez, minister-president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, CECE.

The ECLA official's visit to our country is part of a tour of regional countries in preparation for the 22d meeting of the ECLA, which will be held 20 to 27 April in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Their talks included discussion of the 14th meeting of Latin American governmental experts, which will be held in Trinidad-Tobago from 1 to 4 March. This meeting is in preparation for the April sessions in Brazil.

Video Display Terminals Produced for Export

FL181629 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1518 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Cuba is expected to produce 8,000 video display terminals for export this year. This is one of the products in which Cuba specializes within the corresponding CEMA committee. The display terminal is a monitor which visually presents the information contained or transmitted by the computer. More than 5,000 of these have been shipped to the USSR in the past few years.

Representatives from the National Institute for Automated Systems and Computer Technology, Insatc, said during the Information Science 88 meeting that this year's exports are valued at 50 million pesos.

Cuba and Poland recently signed a contract in which Poland will purchase different types of computer equipment in 1988.

Pedro Miret Closes Information Science 88

FL190155 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 18 Feb 88

[By Carlos Comesanas and Samuel Urra]

[Text] Pedro Miret Prieto, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has stated: Upon concluding Information Science 88 we can say that the climate here is not one of conclusion but rather one of continuity.

He said the international forum held at the Palace of Conventions with the participation of 345 foreign specialists has been an effort of will and communication. He then referred to the high quality of most of the 502 lectures presented during the work commissions.

Miret said that during the Latin American meeting the theme of regional integration was of much interest. He also emphasized that Latin America is united and diverse and that which unites us is greater than the factors that can divide us.

Haiti

Manigat To Address People Via Radio, TV Casts

FL182200 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] A communique from the Ministry of Information, Mass Education, and Tourism informs us that Haitian President Leslie Francois Manigat will inaugurate—beginning tomorrow, Friday, 19 February 1988, at 2000 hours—a series of radio and television broadcasts entitled "A Friendly Chat With the Haitian People" ["Koze An Ba Tonel Avek Pep La"].

The objective of these casts, which will be broadcast twice a month over the national radio and television stations, is to allow the president to maintain permanent contact with the Haitian people.

Former Ministers Exonerated; Award Created

FL182140 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Eighteen former ministers have been exonerated as regards the handling of public monies. They are: Yves Blanchard, Pierre Gonzales, Emmanuel Bros, Joseph Baguidy, Pierre Merceron, Odonel Fenestor, Rony Gilot,

Remilloto Leveille, Jean Narcisse, Fritz Cineas, Hebert Docteur, Thony Auguste, Stanley Theard, Gerard Desir, Simon Desvarieux, Herve Denis, Nicot Julien, and Robert Germain.

Furthermore, according to a decree dated 15 January, Colonel Jean Thomas, Haitian Armed Forces, has been retired, with a pension of 5,000 gourdes per month.

Also, another decree announces the creation of the Cross of Military Loyalty [Croix de Loyaute Militaire], to be awarded to members of the Armed Forces who have exhibited discipline and faithfulness to the nation's ideals by serving in the Armed Forces for 30 years.

The Cross of Military Loyalty will be awarded to the person or his beneficiaries by the president of the Republic at the recommendation of the commander in chief of the Haitian Armed Forces.

PDCH Pleased With Army Security During Carnival

FL182215 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] The Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH] says it is very pleased with the way the carnival holiday turned out in Port-au-Prince, which despite all the rumors circulating and despite what had happened to the party headquarters, was uneventful and allowed the Haitian people to blow off a little steam.

The PDCH thanks the Haitian Army for paying attention to the PDCH communique denouncing a series of vile maneuvers against the party headquarters.

The PDCH says the Haitian Army maintained for the entire 3-day carnival period an impeccable security detachment all around party headquarters.

The PDCH says: We especially thank the soldiers from the Dessalines Barracks detachment who provided this good security during the 3-day carnival period. They provided security for the party members meeting at party headquarters as usual. Also, the Haitian Army provided good security for the Haitian people in general, during the 3-day carnival period.

That was a press release from the PDCH, signed by (Joachim Pierre), first secretary general; (Alexandre Hazard), second secretary general; and (Menard Charles Roberts), assistant executive secretary general.

St Vincent and the Grenadines

DPRK Envoy Decries Break in Relations

FL181732 Bridgetown CANA in English 1643 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 17, CANA—North Korea has expressed regret at the decision of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to sever diplomatic relations following charges of North Korean involvement in the downing of a (South) Korean Airlines (KAL) aircraft last year, with the death of 115 passengers and crew.

The Guyana-based North Korean ambassador to Barbados and the Caribbean, Chong Chong-Kyu said in a statement released to reporters before ending a visit here Wednesday, that the Vincentian Government acted without confirming the truth of the incident...[passage omitted]

Chong said that St. Vincent and the Grenadines was being dragged into the conspiracy of the United States and South Korea.

A Senior Korean diplomat accompanying Chong on the visit, second secretary at the Korean Embassy in Guyana, Om Yong-Sok said it is his country's hope that St. Vincent and the Grenadines will understand what is the reality... adding that there was still some hope for a restoration of ties. [passage omitted]

Briefs

New Airline Union

Kingstown, St Vincent, Feb 16,CANA—LIAT [Leeward Islands Air Transport] Airline employees in St. Vincent have formed a union to negotiate improved working conditions and salaries for them. Kurt St Jour is general secretary of the LIAT Workers Union [LWU] eight-member executive. He said the LWU had written to the airline's local management seeking recongition. St Jour said workers here—there are 30 local employees—have over the years felt that they had not been given a fair deal as far as salaries and conditions of service were concerned. LIAT is owned by Caribbean Community Governments. [Text] *[Bridgetown CANA in English 1539 GMT 16 Feb 88 FL]*

El Salvador

General Blandon on 17 Feb Usulutan Attack

PA182022 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] The new guerrilla campaign coincides with the arrival of the Central American foreign ministers in San Salvador for discussions on the peace process. According to General Adolfo Blandon, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the guerrilla operation was carried out by approximately 300 rebels who attacked the security positions of the 6th Infantry Brigade:

[Begin Blandon recording] We suffered six casualties; that is, six men were killed, and two were slightly wounded. Two terrorists were killed, and a wounded man is being treated at the Usulutan Hospital. The subversive individuals probably suffered more wounded, because they were unable to enter our installations due to the actions of our security guards. There is minimal material damage; I believe very little damage was done. [end recording]

More than 12 homes in front of the brigade were damaged in the attack, which lasted approximately 2 hours. Some residents called the attack one of the heaviest of the war.

[Begin unidentified resident recording] We were locked inside, at approximately 2400. We could hear the people crying as they were dying in those homes. We could see the fire. The guerrillas entered through this area. They were firing as they came in, but one cannot really say which of the two sides was firing. [end recording]

Several wounded soldiers and civilians were taken to the Usulutan Hospital. Margarita Antonia Rivera, the only survivor of her family, was wounded in both legs. [sentence indistinct] The bodies of two guerrillas and several explosive devices were found 1 km from the garrison.

The guerrilla attack was not only directed at the military base; economic targets were also attacked. Several warehouses of a cotton cooperative were destroyed. This aerial view shows the damage done to two important cottonseed oil and cotton-processing plants. Firefighters worked from early morning trying to extinguish the fire that has destroyed 12 cotton warehouses. Damage is estimated at hundreds of thousands of colons.

FMLN Announces Transportation Stoppage

PA190225 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0130 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Attention militia fighters, attention urban guerrillas, attention FMLN forces throughout the national territory: The next national transportation stoppage will be effective on all of the nation's roads and in the cities, especially in the capital. We repeat a call to all our forces in the entire country to implement the national transportation stoppage beginning next Monday, 22 February.

FMLN Issues Communique on 'Electoral Farce'

PA171825 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Communique issued by the FMLN General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] 1. The nation has lost its sovereignty and independence. The Reagan administration is economically and militarily supporting the Christian Democratic regime [words indistinct]. Since the 1982 elections, they have imposed their will on the Army and the oligarchy, and they have turned the Christian Democratic Party into their puppet. The Reagan administration does not care about the will of the Salvadoran people. The democratic process does not exist. What we have is a new type of military dictatorship with a [words indistinct] attempts to stop the people's struggle with massive repression, along with apparent [word indistinct] that try to conceal the repression.

The FMLN does not recognize the legitimacy of the government, the elections it holds, or the results of those elections.

2. The nation is living in a state of war that encompasses nearly 80 percent of the country, including almost the entire eastern, central, and northern regions and parts of the western region and the capital. Many of the cities are actually military barracks. The civilian plans and projects are only a portion of the counterinsurgency war plans carried out by brigade chiefs, detachments, and battalions that are even under direct U.S. supervision. The civilian organization plans seek to [words indistinct] civil defense to prevent the organization of the masses, to stop them from implementing a true people's democracy in areas of conflict. The war has given regional military chiefs and detachments much more authority than they once possessed. The military has done away with all formal or real vestiges of civilian authority, thereby turning civilian authority into an appendix of the military's war plans.

In response to this situation, the FMLN for over 5 years has maintained a permanent struggle to break up and destabilize local officials. For this reason, dozens of mayors, who have been named, have not exercised their authority. Some of them seek to exercise their authority in department capitals under the protection of Army battalions.

3. Even with three allegedly massive elections, over $2 billion in military and economic aid, an Army of 50,000 men, the killing of over 60,000 Salvadorans, and a million homeless people, they have not been able to stop the revolutionary struggle and the people's struggle.

Those who keep saying that because elections will be held there is a rejection of the revolutionary war and the people's struggle are completely wrong. The propaganda effects of the elections are transitory and unimportant. Their deceitful promises only increase frustration and discontent among the masses, who have not been able to resolve their basic problems, which have increased after each electoral farce. This leads the masses to seek real solutions to their problems, thereby reinforcing the revolutionary war and the people's struggle [words indistinct] of the Salvadoran society.

4. It would be naive to exaggerate the importance of the electoral farce. The electoral farce aggravates contradictions in the enemy. Therefore, it is a time of great political weakness for the government. [Words indistinct] causes problems for the Armed Forces.

It would also be naive to accept a truce or to allow them to peacefully carry out their elections. We may accept a truce for dialogue meetings, vaccination drives for children, or religious celebrations, and we may agree on a cease-fire in the framework of an overall solution, but we will never accept a truce for an electoral farce. If they want to hold elections as part of their war plan, then let them protect their own elections with their Armed Forces.

5. The FMLN has a nationwide war and destabilization plan that will be unchanged by the elections. It will be expanded. [Words indistinct] accepts the electoral farce, it is the problem of the Christian Democratic government and the Reagan administration, which promotes the counterinsurgency plan.

Ours is a well-defined war plan to annihilate and wear down enemy forces, sabotage the war economy, and destabilize and dismantle local and judicial authority and the political-economic plans mentioned in the "United to Reconstruct" operation.

The elections are part of the counterinsurgency-political war plan, and they are thus another objective of our destabilization plan, just like our sabotaging the economy and our annihilation and attrition of the enemy's forces.

The FMLN urges the popular sectors to redouble their just struggle for vindication, to develop all possible forms of struggle to attain their just demands, and to reject the demagogic promises of the electoral farce. Only organization and struggle will control the prepotency of Duarte and his Yankee bosses.

The FMLN will permanently guide the people against the demagoguery and counterinsurgency objectives that the enemy plans to achieve with the elections.

The FMLN reiterates that it does not reject elections in general, but only in this connection, meaning that they are part of the counterinsurgency war plan. We do not consider all parties or all party members participating in the elections to be enemies. We reiterate the FMLN's willingness to continue talks with different national sectors to express our views and our willingness to seek a national political solution. We support and view as totally legitimate the political activities that our FDR allies carry out inside the country and abroad, and believe that true solutions will only be achieved when the people recover national sovereignty and can exert self-determination.

[Signed] FMLN General Command

10 Feb 1988

General Blandon Refutes Charges by Church

PA171430 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Report on interview with General Adolfo O. Blandon, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, by Nelson Lopez; date, place not given]

[Text] General Adolfo O. Blandon, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, has stated that the charges the church recently made against the Armed Forces may be aimed at hindering the work of the military and at causing problems for the country, in view of a meeting within the next few days in Geneva, Switzerland, for a discussion of the country's human rights situation. As for the charges, Gen Blandon noted:

[Begin recording] [Blandon] First, I believe the easiest thing to do now is to blame the Armed Forces for this type of criminal activity. We are the first ones to regret these savage acts that are taking place in the country. Yesterday, I met with some church officials to analyze the problem. They have a statement by the widow of a man who was killed and whose body was found in [words indistinct].

We must accept that violence in the nation has intensified. The people should rest assured that the Armed Forces will not permit anyone from our organization to become involved in that type of activity. If anyone should become involved—regardless of his uniform, rank, or hierarchy—he will be punished according to the law. The high military command has confirmed this, and all members of the Armed Forces are aware of this.

We must not rule out the possibility that the terrorists may seek to take advantage of El Salvador's political situation and the fact that the Geneva meeting to discuss the human rights situation will soon be held. The terrorists may try to provoke this type of action to discredit the Armed Forces and the government, and then present arguments in Geneva to tarnish El Salvador's prestige at the meeting.

We thus have a great responsibility to discover who is carrying out these inhumane acts that the high military command does not approve of. Any person or sector responsible for these acts will have to be severely punished. That is my opinion.

[Lopez] As a result of this meeting with the church hierarchy, was any specific agreement reached concerning the charges raised?

[Blandon] No, because the information the church possesses is not complete. A mistake was made when the church mentioned a specific unit. Msgr Rosa Chavez made a mistake, because he mentioned a unit belonging to a certain garrison that was not operating on the day the events took place. In fact, an operation was being carried out in that area on that day, and it is the responsibility of that commander to thoroughly investigate what happened. This is being done. There is a specific order to that effect from the Joint Chiefs of Staff, one that orders an immediate investigation.

The president of the Republic has done the same. I understand he has ordered the special units and the Office of the Attorney General to take action in this case and clarify it. It would be regrettable after all the Armed Forces' hardships and hard work—so many killed, so many handicapped or crippled, so many widows, so many families affected by the war—to then be confronted with such repulsive actions as the ones now taking place.

That is why as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I cannot believe—and let us hope this will be the case—that any member of the Armed Forces is responsible for this type of savage act. If this is the case, you may rest assured that they will be severely punished. That is our policy.

[Lopez] As for the military aspect, what is the current situation in view of the operations and the recent actions that were carried out?

[Blandon] From a military viewpoint, I would say we do not have any serious problems. The terrorists have recently engaged in strictly terror actions. They continue seeking to harm the economic infrastructure of the country. Also, there are some trade unions such as the UNTS [National Union of Salvadoran Workers] and other front organizations that are seeking to cause disturbances, a lack of security, and distrust; and to prevent the people from experiencing the sense of security necessary to participate in the 20 March elections. We have been working on that; we are posted throughout the city and throughout the country. We feel able to provide the people with the security they need for the democratic process to continue. We believe this is the only way to achieve lasting peace in this nation. [end recording]

FMLN Attacks Farm, Electricity System

PA190241 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Coprefa report]

[Text] The FMLN has caused serious damage to a farm and continues to sabotage the electricity system. Terrorist groups inflicted extensive physical damage on the Naranjo Farm, located in San Miguel Canton, near [name indistinct], Santa Ana Department. The report states that a large number of heavily armed extremists attacked the farm at approximately 1940 last Wednesday [10 February] and destroyed, blew up, and burned the administration office, the administrator's house, a warehouse containing seven irrigation pumps, two weight-scales, and 15 bags of first-grade coffee. In addition, the subversives destroyed a nursery containing at least 4,000 coffee plants that were ready to be transplanted. The amount of the damage has not yet been determined, but it totals many thousands of colons.

Terrorist groups last night also destroyed four electricity poles in San Salvador and surrounding areas, which caused several short-lived blackouts. One of the posts was destroyed near the Aguas Calientes Hotel. Another was destroyed near the Hispano-America Paper Factory at the 13-km marker of Army Boulevard. Two posts were destroyed in the [name indistinct] neighborhood, one at 87 North Avenue and Mirador Street, and the other two blocks south [words indistinct] of San Salvador.

Editorial Condems Contra Vote by U.S. House

PA171622 San Salvador PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 8 Feb 88 p 7

[Editorial]

[Text] Another gray page in the history of the struggle of free men against communist totalitarianism has just been written in Washington. Those self-styled democrats dealt a harsh blow to Central America's hopes for freedom and democracy.

Just when military pressure from the "contras" had brought the Sandinists to the negotiating table and got them to pledge to carry out democratic changes, the pressure is lifted by the suspension of U.S. aid. What good is the Esquipulas agreement if there is no coercive way to ensure compliance with it? Is it sufficient to have the word of honor of Daniel Ortega, who has only complied with minor concessions? The fact is that the Sandinists have presently won a victory by having their fallacy—that they are complying with the commitments—believed to the point that U.S. aid has been suspended. Having yielded very little, they have been relieved, at least temporarily, of the pressure that was worrying them.

The decision by the U.S. House of Representatives is totally inexplicable. The oppressive and antidemocratic nature of the Sandinist regime has been proven time and again, yet the U.S. Democrats insist on supporting them, perhaps because the congressmen feel responsible for the Sandinist rise to power with the fall of Somoza. They have systematically opposed military aid to those who are fighting against a government that is the negation of everything we all desire for our peoples, based on the principles that have made the Western nations great.

Now we must confirm that all freedoms have been immediately reestablished in Nicaragua, because there are neither deadlines nor excuses not to do this. If the Sandinists refuse to reestablish freedoms, they would once again be laughing at their sponsors.

Guatemala

URNG Issues Communique on 4th Anniversary

PA161546 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 9 Feb 88 pp 59, 60

[Message to the Guatemalan people, dated 7 February, on the occasion of the 4th anniversary of the URNG, signed by URNG Commanders Rolando Moran, Pablo Monsanto, and Gaspar Ilom; issued in Guatemala City—published as paid advertisement]

[Text] The forces that comprise the URNG emerged and consolidated to struggle at our people's side for true democracy and national sovereignty, and against social injustice, misery, and backwardness, to eliminate racist discrimination, and to exercise the right to life and peace.

The need for an armed rebellion emerged in Guatemala because an oppressive regime of repression and terror was imposed on the country in 1954 through a violent U.S. intervention. This regime rejects making the changes necessary for our people to achieve liberation, development, and well-being.

This regime prevails under the cover of a phony institutionalism. It is trying, superficially, to maintain the image it created for itself in order to confuse the people and fool international forces.

The main reasons we united 6 years ago for our struggle are still valid. As long as the reasons persist and no steps are taken to eliminate them, we will continue struggling.

We are certain that in this struggle the people will always follow us, and will absorb and use our experience when the best of this experience demonstrates the fruits of victory.

Fiction and the Objective of the Government's Policy [subhead]

President Cerezo has attempted to create at both the national and the international levels the idea that his government has overcome the overall crisis. The truth is that the country's situation has seriously worsened. The Cerezo regime has overseen a painful deterioration and has demonstrated that it is incapable of governing the nation.

Cerezo has cynically tried to fool both the local people and foreigners by saying there has been an economic recovery under his administration. Through his spokesmen, he has stated that his plans for economic and social restructuring and national reorganization have worked, and that national economic recovery is just around the corner. The truth, however, is something else entirely.

The unsteady equilibrium and the apparent reactivation in the nation have been secured at the expense of huge sacrifices by the majority of the people, who are rapidly growing poorer. Levels of unprecedented poverty have already been reached.

The government has promoted a monetary policy that basically benefits the bankers, big business, agricultural exporters, and the government itself. This policy has been complemented with donations and loans in dollars from abroad, especially from the United States.

The exchange policy that the government has maintained over the past 2 years has permitted these sectors and important military and civilian officials to carry out suspect business affairs and to engage in corrupt practices. They have become very rich by trafficking in dollars that come to the country as a result of exports, tourism, etcetera, and as a result of donations and loans.

The devaluation has benefited the economically powerful because it has not affected them. The state, through the Bank of Guatemala, has apparently assumed the losses, but the truth is that the people are being charged for this. The prices on all products have increased more than the amount of the devaluation, and salaries remain at what they were many years ago when the exchange rate was one-to-one.

Tax-related economic measures, increased electricity tariffs, self-appraisals, the unification of the exchange rate, the release of imports, etcetera are conditions the IMF requires to continue providing new loans. They are also requirements that are in accordance with the financial policy Cerezo and his government plan to impose on the nation.

The country will continue indebting itself, and the people will become poorer each day. This situation is becoming more and more serious, because the government's economic plans have no real foundation and have begun to depend increasingly on U.S. aid, as well as on the dollar loans and donations received from abroad. This makes it seem as if the measures adopted to reactivate the economy are effective.

The government needs funds to continue its counterinsurgency plan and to cover its budget. This is the reason behind the tax reform and all the concessions required to obtain more loans.

With the counterinsurgency plan that Cerezo supports, the government is trying to promote capitalism without affecting the real interests of the traditionally most powerful sectors. The government also plans to finance this capitalism primarily by exploiting the people. Neither the failed plan of the Christian Democratic sector nor the plan it is currently promoting with the Army seek the adoption of the proper path to achieve true agricultural and industrial development, meaning development that would create long-term jobs and promote true domestic development. This would broaden the domestic market and give the country a broader economic base.

The insignificant programs the government intends to enact, primarily in the zones of conflict, are primarily aimed at achieving control and neutralizing the struggle waged by the dominant sectors of those regions. Furthermore, the political objectives of the plans are to annul local power and substitute for it state structures that will justify the Army's presence and mobilization, and the repression of the people, at times when the political struggle becomes heightened. The objective is also to try to impose strong control over the territory to contain the progress of the revolutionary movement.

The government also plans to simultaneously promote economic plans that will take particular advantage of the low cost of the labor force residing in those areas. The government does not plan, therefore, to reactivate or develop the economy in those regions.

A Deceitful Foreign Policy Without Principles [subhead]

At the international level there are organizations, institutions, forces, and governments that for various reasons hope the Cerezo government will be able to correct and to change what was done by the military regimes that preceded it.

The Cerezo government has presented itself to the world with a neutral and conciliatory image that is now beginning to deteriorate.

However, no one should be deceived. The foreign policy of the current government is fully in line with the strategic interests of stopping the revolution and internationally isolating the Guatemalan revolutionary movement. It is also in line with its need to break the isolation in which the openly genocidal policy of the military had placed the country.

The fact that the current government completely yielded to the Army's decisions concerning the internal armed conflict and its stand on the Central American conflict limited the government's participation as a protagonist in plan for democratization and peace.

This is the main reason why the Cerezo government did not comply with all the points of Esquipulas II, and it explains the position the Cerezo government took concerning the report of the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission [CIVS]. It also explains its alignment with other governments of the region to politically pressure Nicaragua.

A Firm, Coherent, and Consistent Position [subhead]

The organizations that comprise the URNG have reached our 6th anniversary more united than ever, with a wealthy accumulation of political and military successes during 1987. They have left us with valuable experiences that will help us prepare for new battles in the immediate future.

Our political proposals have been aimed at defining the path for the construction of a true democracy, and our initiatives have been aimed at preventing greater bloodshed and at eliminating the anguish and uncertainty of the Guatemalan people.

We have wanted to embark on a joint enterprise with the patriots, the honorable and honest Guatemalans, the democrats and revolutionaries, to build an alternative that, without maneuvers, will develop justice and open the way for progress, social well-being, and peace.

That is why we have insistently issued our call to all those political and social sectors to jointly follow that path.

The talks in Madrid demonstrate that the URNG has a sincere political willingness to hold talks to find the just and necessary solutions to the deep and serious problems of our fatherland.

We are aware that many oppose those forms of resolving our problems. However, we believe we must struggle against those opponents if we wish to pull our fatherland out of its present situation.

We regret that the Army and the government have suspended the talks. We know that the dialogue caused deep discontent and led to the emergence of disagreements within the Army and the government.

The clique led by [Minister of Defense] Gramajo has always been an enemy of using dialogue and negotiations to resolve conflicts. Without having won the battle, it [the Gramajo-led clique] wants us to surrender.

Despite this, the URNG to date maintains its proposals for a true political solution to achieve peace and to democratize the nation.

The impotence of the Army and the government in attaining their objectives has led them to intensify the war. Our military efforts will increase to the same extent that the war develops.

There is genuine international support for seeking political solutions to the armed conflict in Guatemala. Many forces and sectors have come out in favor of a dialogue between the government and the URNG.

The opinions of political parties and university students have been stressed. The Center for Political Studies, CEDEP, in its 15th national political forum: "Government-Guerrilla Political Opening," which was held 8 December, proposed a list of topics and a timetable. The Guatemalan people generally want the dialogue to be resumed.

We believe that the government and the Army must respond to this clamor. We also believe that they are obliged, without offering any excuses, to fulfill the Esquipulas II accords and the joint declaration of the Central American presidents. In it the presidents state: "The commitments that the governments have not met must be fulfilled immediately—publicly and openly."

We hail the efforts of the National Reconciliation Commission to contribute to the quest for peace and democratization in the nation, and we urge it to persist in that noble effort.

We consider it to be negative and unfortunate that Esquipulas II has canceled the important functions assigned to the CIVS. We also condemn the fact that such powers have been consigned to the Executive Commission, which is composed of the Central American foreign ministers. This constitutes a travesty of justice, because the judge can in effect try his own case.

Furthermore, we consider the presence of Latin America, through the Contadora and Support Groups, indispensable to halt U.S. intervention and aggression, and to contribute to averting a general conflagration in the area.
Exhortation [subhead]

By virtue of the above, the URNG General Command appeals to the Guatemalan people, to all the productive and politically active sectors, to participate belligerently and with a lofty fighting spirit in this patriotic crusade, a crusade that seeks to create the conditions for building a true democracy in which social justice and peace will prevail.

We will not permit the vested interests of a few to prevent, mock, or thwart the political will of our people, of the peoples of Central America and of the world, to seek peace and democracy through political solutions.

We can all contribute by employing all means possible to force the continuation of the dialogue that began in Madrid, and to promote the necessary political climate and conditions for holding a national dialogue, a dialogue in which the nation's forces can express themselves through specific initiatives, partial or general proposals, written manifestations, or messages and requests to the president and to the Army.

The people are immensely creative and will find the means with which to express themselves on the aforementioned points.

The URNG General Command, as has been insistently stated, reiterates its desire to seek political solutions through a dialogue with the government. It reiterates that it considers a national dialogue to be indispensable. Through this dialogue, a true democratic process can be initiated with which to build a new Guatemala, one that is free, sovereign, independent, just, and complete. Only in this way will the wishes of those Guatemalans who volunteered their work, efforts, talent, and sacrifices to give life and grandeur to our fatherland be honored. Only in this way will we guarantee our country respect and dignity among the nations of the world.

URNG General Command Commander Rolando Moran, Commander Pablo Monsanto, Commander Gaspar Ilom

Guatemala, 7 February 1988

Nicaragua

Government To Offer Contras 1-Month Truce

PA181547 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1330 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Report by Agustin Fuentes]

[Text] Guatemala City, 18 Feb (REUTER)—The Nicaraguan delegation, which begins a second round of negotiations with the contras here today, is determined to agree on a cease-fire as soon as possible and is therefore willing to act with greater flexibility.

[Words indistinct] the delegation, Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco told reporters at Guatemala's Aurora airport last night that he hopes the rejection of contra aid by the U.S. Congress will be a positive factor, not only for concluding a cease-fire but also for attaining a stable peace in Nicaragua and all Central America.

"I hope this will be attained in Guatemala. The Nicaraguan delegation is determined to achieve this," he said.

The negotiations, which will take place at the palace of the Guatemalan archbishop over the next 3 days, will be mediated by Nicararaguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo.

Nicaraguan Bishop Bosco Vivas represented the cardinal at the first round of talks on 28 and 29 January in San Jose, Costa Rica.

On that occasion, on the eve of the vote by the U.S. Congress on contra aid, the two sides only presented their proposals and agreed on a period of time for studying them prior to holding in-depth talks in Guatemala.

"This is what the Nicaraguan delegation is hoping for," Tinoco told REUTER when he arrived in Guatemala last night.

Nicaragua, he noted, maintains its proposal but it is also willing to discuss that of the the other side.

FRG politician Hans Juergen Wischnewski, adviser to the Nicaraguan delegation, told REUTER on the same flight that "the proposals will be discussed in detail in Guatemala for the first time."

He reiterated that the side that delays the attainment of a cease-fire will be responsible for the deaths that occur while the fighting continues.

Asked if Nicaragua will alter its proposal, he replied: "Yes, the change is that Nicaragua increases its flexibility."

The Nicaraguan proposal essentially refers to what was agreed upon here by the Central American presidents, to reach an "effective cease-fire within the constitutional framework" of the countries in which there are armed conflicts.

Based on this, Nicaragua is opposed to discussing constitutional reforms as a step prior to a cease-fire, as the rebels are demanding.

The Sandinist proposal suggests that a 1-month cease-fire begin on 15 March and that after laying down their arms, the rebels can then participate in a dialogue with the government to discuss political reforms.

The rebels' proposal is that the cease-fire and the democratization of Nicaragua should be carried out in accordance with the simultaneity agreed upon by the presidents of regional states.

The rebels also stated that "this simultaneity entails tripartite negotiations among the Sandinist government, the domestic opposition, and the Nicaraguan Resistance."

Tinoco commented that the rebels' proposal will unquestionably have to be changed because it is to a great extent based on the supposition that the U.S. Congress was going to approve military aid for them.

On the basis of this, the contras were offering a 30-day freeze in that military aid, and that negotiations be carried out during that period between themselves, the government, and the domestic opposition.

Because that supposition did not become a reality, the contras' proposal has been shattered; and a new proposal based on reality and on the desire to end the suffering of the Nicaraguan people must be presented, one member of the Nicaraguan delegation said.

Cardinal Offers Proposal

PA190453 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0253 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 18 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Lack of agreement on the meaning of certain terms used in possible points of agreement prevented any progress in today's round of negotiations here between the Sandinist government and the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN). This information was provided by mediator Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo at the conclusion of the first round of talks, which began at 1600 (2200 GMT) and lasted 4 hours.

Obando y Bravo said the mediation commission he heads asked the two delegations what they "consider a cease-fire to be," and that each one had a different interpretation.

Obando y Bravo stated: "The RN understands it to be democratization in Nicaragua and the reconciliation of the Nicaragaun family." He commented that for the RN, "a cease-fire is not an end, but just a means to an end." After noting "I am just summarizing," the cardinal said the government delegation "understands a cease-fire to be the conclusion of military activities, and that it believes a cease-fire is part of a process."

Obando y Bravo noted that since no agreement was reached and since "we had reached an impasse, we, the mediators, made a proposal, because it looked like we were seeing a repeat of what happened in Costa Rica. After all, time keeps running, and time is gold."

The proposal, according to what Obando y Bravo has stated, includes four points that the Sandinist government must satisfy "as a goodwill gesture," and one that the RN must meet.

The proposal made to the Sandinist government was "amnesty for all political prisoners, unrestricted freedom of expression, dialogue with opposition political parties, and reconsideration of the military service law. This is because this law undoubtedly is creating problems, and it seems to us that at the present, it is not conducive to reconciliation."

The proposal made to the RN was that its members promise to "enter certain enclaves or zones with their weapons and ammunition."

The mediator stated: "The RN said it agrees to the proposal in principle, while the government commented that the proposal is interesting and constructive. However, we asked that the two sides define what the concept of enclave or zone involves."

Obando y Bravo explained that since no agreement was reached concerning this definition, it was decided to suspend the meeting so the two sides could "conduct a study to come up with a more clear and specific definition of enclave."

He said: "We have made the proposal, but we are not experts; it is therefore up to the experts to provide that definition."

In conclusion, Obando y Bravo stated that the sessions will resume tomorrow at 1030 (1630 GMT) in the archbishopric.

The RN delegation has also scheduled a news conference for tomorrow at 0900 (1500 GMT).

Black Market Dollar Selling at 100 Cordobas

PA181745 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish
15 Feb 88 p 8

[Text] Reliable sources reported this morning that the dollar is being sold on the black market at the rate of 100 new cordobas to $1, which is equivalent to 100,000 old cordobas for $1.

Inflation seemed interminable from yesterday to this morning in view of the black market exchange rate. The situation appears to be continuing out of control, and imports by the informal sector may reach a value even higher than what they were under the "old cordoba."

Foiled Contra Currency-Smuggling Plan Noted

PA182204 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
17 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] A counterrevolutionary plan to smuggle large amounts of old cordobas into the country was uncovered in time by the security organizations. This is why the customs posts at various border points were closed, Commander Rene Vivas, deputy minister of interior, told BARRICADA.

The security measures taken by the Ministry of Interior and the cooperation of the people made it possible to drastically reduce criminal acts and to detect and capture persons who were changing money (which was seized) on behalf of speculators and enemies of the people, the deputy minister added.

So far, four persons have been arrested in Managua for trying to exchange money beloning to someone else. They will be punished by the full weight of the law, which calls for imprisonment of 1 to 6 months.

The security measures are a harsh blow to the CIA, which has delivered millions of old cordobas to the contras, who are disconcerted over this setback. The contras have been unable to carry out military operations, except for an attack they attempted to stage at Plan de Granma, the deputy minister added.

Air traffic into the country continues to be normal, but immigration and security officials are on alert to prevent any maneuvers by enemies seeking to destabilize the economy, Commander Vivas advised.

Ortega Signs Oil Derivatives Price Accord

PA190222 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
17 Feb 88 p 4

["Agreement" on prices of oil derivatives issued by President Daniel Ortega in Managua on 14 February]

[Text] An agreement issued by President Daniel Ortega setting maximum oil derivatives' retail and wholesale prices for oil companies and gas stations took effect yesterday.

The official agreement, which includes a pricelist for these products at various places of sale, establishes among other things that a gallon of gas for automobiles will cost 15 new cordobas; that diesel oil, kerosene, and turbo fuel will cost 12.50 new cordobas; and that a gallon of aviation fuel will cost 18 new cordobas.

Due to its importance for the Nicaraguan people, the following is the full text of the agreement:

Agreement:

The Nicaraguan Petroleum Enterprise (Petronic), aligned with the Nicaraguan Energy Institute (INE), in conjunction with the Nicaraguan Ministries of Finance and Transportation, and using the powers granted to it by Decree No 1551 issued by the National Reconstruction Government Junta and published in the official gazette on 7 January 1981;

Agree to:

Article No 1: The basic price for pipeline-refinery oil derivatives will be set as follows:

a) Aviation fuel, 14.95 cordobas per gallon; b) automobile gasoline, 8.05 per gallon; c) diesel fuel, 7.78 per gallon; d) kerosene, 6.72 [quantity not published]; e) turbo fuel, 6.72 per gallon; f) fuel oil (bunker) [preceding three words published in English] 4.76 per gallon; g) penetration asphalt [asfalto penetracion], 8.57 per gallon; h) cut-back [preceding word published in English] asphalt, 8.57 per gallon; i) Varsol, 10.18 per gallon, j) H.H.A. [as published], 8.81 per gallon; k) propane-butane gas, 5.73 per gallon.

Article No 2: Oil-derivative products have a top profit margin for oil companies, which is established as follows:

a) Aviation fuel, 11.00 cordobas per gallon; b) automobile gasoline, 0.50 per gallon; c) diesel oil, 0.50 [quantity not published]; d) kerosene, 0.50 [quantity not published]; e) turbo, 0.50 per gallon; f) fuel oil (bunker), 0.24 per gallon; g) penetration asphalt, 0.43 per gallon; h) cut-back asphalt, 0.43 per gallon; Varsol, 2.05 per gallon; j) H.H.A., 2.41 per gallon.

Those profit margins include the cost that oil companies must pay refineries for loading these products.

Article No 3: Oil-derivative products have a top profit margin for gas and service stations, which is established as follows:

a) Automobile gasoline, 0.80 cordobas per gallon; b) diesel oil, 0.80 [quantity not specified]; c) kerosene, 0.60 [quantity not specified]; d) turbo, 0.60 per gallon.

Article No 4: Top sale prices of oil derivatives for consumers are:

a) Aviation fuel, 18.00 cordobas per gallon; b) automobile gasoline, 15.00 per gallon; c) diesel fuel, 12.50; d) kerosene, 12.50; e) turbo, 12.50; f) fuel oil (bunker), 5.00; g) penetration asphalt, 9.00; h) cut-back asphalt, 9.00; i) Varsol, 22.50; k) propane-butane gas in bulk, 7.80; 100-pound cylinder, 180; 25-pound cylinder, 45.00; and 10-pound cylinder, 15.00 cordobas. [sentence as published]

Article No 5: This agreement must be approved by the president of the Republic.

Managua, 12 February 1988

"For a worthy peace, free fatherland or death."

Emilio Rappaccioli B.

INE Minister Director

William Ramirez

Minister of Tranportation

William Hupper Arguello

The Nicaraguan president in using his powers,

Resolves:

To approve in full the preceding agreement, which will take effect on 15 February 1988, following its publication in any mass media and notwithstanding its publication in the official gazette.

Managua, 14 February 1988

"For a worthy peace, free fatherland or death."

Daniel Ortega Saavedra

President of the Republic

Opposition Demands Democratic Reforms

PA140018 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Feb 88 pp 1, 12

[Communique from the Nicaraguan opposition political parties and groups calling for democratic reforms in Nicaragua; issued in Managua on 3 February]

[Text] The Nicaraguan civic opposition's political parties and groups participating in the national dialogue, which was convened in accordance with the Esquipulas II agreement, have analyzed the Central American presidents' joint declaration in which the presidents emphatically admit and agree:

"Because they [not further identified] are not fully pleased with how the Esquipulas II agreement is being complied with, they commit themselves to meet unconditional and unilateral obligations that commit the governments to completely fulfill the agreement. This requires a dialogue, cease-fire negotiations, a general amnesty, and—above all—democratization, which necessarily includes lifting the state of siege, [guaranteeing] total freedom of the press, political pluralism, and eliminating the special tribunals. The commitments that have not been met by the governments should be fulfilled immediately in a public and obvious manner."

"The presidents—aware of their historical responsibility to the people—reaffirm their willingness to fulfill [the agreement] in the aforementioned manner, which they feel they can neither renounce nor change. They promise to immediately fulfill what is pending without further delay, aware that their peoples and the international community will evaluate how they fulfill the obligations that they have promised in good faith to fulfill."

What has been quoted from the joint declaration are commitments that are basic steps and whose fulfillment in our country would bring about pacification and begin building a nation of democratic coexistence.

We reaffirm our support of the Central American presidents' effort to totally comply with the Esquipulas II agreement. We commit ourselves to promote this so the agreement can go into effect in Nicaragua. As a result, we reiterate that the constitutional amendments we have demanded, and continue to demand, are the starting point to achieve democratization, peace, and a national solution to the overall crisis in our fatherland.

All of the reforms we demand seek to free the Constitution from the antidemocratic and autocratic contents that have been imposed upon it, eliminate the possibility

of having continuity and a dynasty, eliminate the militarization and monopoly of the state by the [FSLN] party, and establish independence, impartiality, and pluralism in the judicial branch and in the electorate.

In light of the legal obstacles the government has set up to implement the constitutional amendments in 1988 and to overcome the difficulties and obstacles that have emerged, the Nicaraguan civic opposition states the following:

I. The president of the Republic should announce in an official statement that he agrees with our demand that the 17 constitutional amendments we have proposed be presented in full by him as a political agreement of the national dialogue with the support of his party to the National Assembly for its initial approval at the beginning of the 1988 legislative session and for its second approval at the beginning of the 1989 legislative session.

We demand that an impartial moderator, not linked to the parties involved in the dialogue, be appointed by joint agreement. We suggest a member of the bishops conference be appointed.

II. The national dialogue should be immediately resumed after the president of the Republic makes his official statement. Then, inspired by the constitutional amendments, we can discuss and take the following legal and practical measures.

1. Strip the Armed Forces of their party-oriented nature. Reduce the number of Armed Forces members and eliminate the paramilitary.

2. Demilitarize and democratize public administration.

3. Reach a formal agreement between the government and our political parties and organizations for the pluralistic and democratic integration of the electorate and judicial branch.

4. Abolish all legal provisions that violate human rights.

5. Fully enforce trade union democracy and freedom of organization.

6. Abolish SNOTS [National Labor and Wages Organization System] and establish a new salary policy in agreement with independent labor federations.

7. Separate the CDS [Sandinist Defense Committees] from public administration.

8. Abolish the existing special tribunals.

9. Draft and promulgate the following laws.

a) A democratic reform of the General Statute and National Assembly regulations.

b) A law on the issuance of I.D.'s.

c) An electoral law.

d) A writ of amparo law.

e) An emergency law.

f) A political parties law.

g) A law on municipalities

h) A new labor code.

i) A law to create a National Economic Planning Council.

j) A law to create the Human Rights Prosecutor's Office.

These points and others, all of them dealing with the country's economic and social problems, should be discussed and agreed upon by the government and the political parties and organizations signing this document in accordance with the Esquipulas II agreement. The implementation of these points can be verified according to the joint Central American presidents statement signed in Costa Rica.

We, the political parties and organizations, hereby declare that discussing and reaching an agreement on the proposed measures is absolutely essential for democratization. Consequently, they are also necessary to create conditions for any type of genuine, just, free, and pure elections.

We are convinced that the taking of this course by the government is the feasible solution for the serious difficulties in our homeland. Therefore, we sign this document in the hope that our proposals can now be received because we are inspired by our people's genuine and overwhelming aspirations.

Managua, 3 February 1988

Democratic Conservative Party

Constitutionalist Liberal Party

Social Democratic Party

Social Christian Party

Popular Social Christian Party

Communist Party of Nicaragua

Conservative Party of Nicaragua

Nicaraguan Socialist Party

Central American Unionist Party

Liberal Party

Movement for Unity and Democratization

Independent Liberal Party.

Trade Union Group Protests Arrests, Rights

PA171505 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] A series of reports about human rights violations were received yesterday by the Confederation for Trade Union Unity, CUS, according to CUS Secretary General Alvin Guthrie. There are reports about people tortured, beaten, wounded, and brutally murdered. Alvin Guthrie revealed that many peasants who are members of CUS-affiliated agricultural cooperatives have been arrested. Secretary General Alvin Guthrie gives us more details:

[Begin recording] [Guthrie] The CUS leadership is alarmed about the number of CUS-affiliated peasants who have been arrested. Approximately 26 peasants have been arrested; 16 from the sector of Madriz, Nueva Segovia, Esteli, are at La Chacara prison. We also know that 2 comrades from Carazo and 10 comrades from Chinandega—namely of Paniquines, the Cosiguina Peninsula—have been arrested. We are alarmed because the FSLN has imprisoned a pregnant woman, Mrs Clara Isabel Santos. She has been at Quinta Ye for 1 week with other comrades, including Narciso Picado, Porfirio Salmeron, Gustavo Espinales, Cipriano Romero Lopez, and Eduardo Picado. We believe a terrible persecution has been unleashed against the peasants simply became they are affiliated with CUS. We have issued a protest at the international level because, contrary to what has been stated by President Daniel Ortega, we see that the number of prisoners has increased, and the persecution unleashed in Nicaragua is illogical. We hope freedom and democracy will be attained in Nicaragua.

[Reporter] What has the CUS legal department done in this case, Mr Guthrie?

[Guthrie] The first thing we did was send a protest to President Daniel Ortega. We will also send a protest to human rights organizations. We will also implement other measures, and request the immediate release of our comrades.

[Reporter] Is it true the National Council Commission has issued a protest? What is your view about this?

[Guthrie] The case will be investigated, and we are concerned about this. We are also investingating another case: the murder of 16-year-old comrade Abraham Galeas. The military commander of Potosi, Juan Alberto Reyes, is being accused of this murder. We will immediately send a protest note to President Daniel Ortega so he investigates the death of Abraham Galeas in that sector. [end recording]

We also interviewed Social Christian Party Secretary General Agustin Jarquin Anaya:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Agustin, we heard you know about the events that occurred last evening in Masaya. Could you give some details for our listeners?

[Jarquin] Of course. Party members called us last night to report that the police and State Security arrested Humberto Urbina, a national leader of our party. He is president of our discipline court and has been investigating an internal case with Edwin Ramirez and other comrades. The case involves a congress held in November and the violation of several statutes. Humberto was arrested yesterday and has been charged with participating in the events that occurred in Masaya yesterday evening. We understand the events included the takeover of a bank. We have not confirmed this report, but it was apparently the National Development Bank. It also involves the seizure of some police vehicles and a shootout that resulted in several wounded. We understand that some mothers were protesting the military service.

This represents a new government injustice and a violation of our human rights. Humberto was not involved in the events; in fact, he has been working with us for the past 3 days in Managua. He arrived in Masaya at 2000 or 2100, when the events were already taking place. This is the fifth time Humberto has been arrested by the Ortega regime. We will issue a formal protest at an international level for these events. The police and the EPS are responsible for the situation, given the inhuman way in which they are recruiting the people; the people have rebelled against this. We do not advocate violent actions, but violence logically leads to more violence. The people have rejected the antidemocratic and inhuman way in which the youths are being dragged away for military service. [end recording]

Employers Group Begins Airing Radio Newscasts

PA132202 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2105 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Report by Marisol Marin]

[Text] Managua, 12 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Today the most influential and openly anti-Sandinist employers organization broadcast its first radio newscast. It is also awaiting permission to operate its own private television channel.

Although they doubt the government will permit them to operate a television channel, the directors of the organization insist they have received many offers of material support and technical advice from—among others—the Spanish Council of Employers Organizations (CEOE), France, Venezuela, Mexico, and all the Central American countries.

The Higher Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP) is a group of conservative businessmen. Its political branch belongs to the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board (CDN), an opposition bloc that is in constant and total confrontation with the Sandinist government.

With the slogan of "Toward Prosperity Through Economic Freedom," the COSEP newscast will be broadcast twice a day, and hopes to become "the mouthpiece of what is left of the private sector opposed to the FSLN's plans for state ownership. [quotation marks as received]

In the editorial of the first broadcast, it is stated that the newscast is at the service of "freedom, democracy, and all those who constitute the productive center of the nation—the private sector—from large businessmen to shoe shiners."

The newscast began with the following headlines: Shortage of school supplies and uniforms due to skyrocketing prices; Sandinist abuses denounced in the U.S. Congress; "contras" determined to continue the struggle; Armando Valladares, defender of human rights.

The newscast director is Francisco Rivas, who admits that the editorial policy will always be determined by COSEP. Rivas insists that his job will be "strictly professional and journalistic."

Rivas was a photographer for the daily LA PRENSA, and he also directed another radio broadcast in the past. When that newscast was closed, he then joined the transportation sector.

COSEP President Enrique Bolanos told ACAN-EFE that they will attempt to prove whether or not the FSLN is going to comply with the Esquipulas II agreement. He commented that "we must be crazy."

Bolanos emphasized that the newscast will emphasize economic issues "because the current situation is bad, it is chaotic, and the people must be guided so they can learn the role of the private sector, of the sector that is progressing due to its own efforts."

Gilberto Cuadra, vice president of the same organization, added that "today we are satisfied, but we do not know how long this satisfaction will last. Perhaps we will be shut down tomorrow."

Both directors are making plans for a television channel as a second goal, although both say they are skeptical. "I do not believe the FSLN will allow it," Enrique Bolanos said.

COSEP filed an initial request some months ago to the National Reconciliation Commission, but this was never answered. Last week, it sent a second request to the Communications Media Directorate of the Ministry of Interior.

According to Gilberto Cuadra, if they obtain the permit, they will need to invest $5 or $6 million, which has already been guaranteed by the Spanish CEOE and other employers organizations from France, the United States, Venezuela, and all the Central American countries.

Cuadra stated that "the offer from CEOE is very broad and open. It has offered us material support, programming, and technical advice, but we are not planning to overdo it."

Enrique Bolanos emphasized that all of these offers can be explained "because the political struggle that is taking place in Nicaragua has repercussions throughout Latin America, and therefore private enterprise organizations are willing to wage that struggle here, in this country."

There are at least 20 independent newscasts being broadcast in Nicaragua that criticize the Sandinists, but there are only two official television channels, which operate under the Sandinist Television System (SSTV).

Chamorro: Contras Win Publicity, Image Battle

PM151156 Madrid ABC in Spanish 12 Feb 88 p 33

[Interview with Nicaraguan contra leader Pedro J. Chamorro by Francisco de Andres; date, place not given]

[Text] "In Europe and Latin America there is a great deal of idle talk and anti-Americanism but in fact everyone secretly wants the United States to invade Nicaragua and settle the problem posed by a Communist government." This forthright statement came from contra leader Pedro Joaquin Chamorro in one of his first interviews since the U.S. Congress vetoed aid to the rebels.

Chamorro revealed to ABC that he would soon be moving to Miami from San Jose following a recent communication from President Arias instructing him to leave the country. The coordinator of the National Resistance Steering Committee also announced that in the next few days the rebels will be holding a long meeting to assess the impact of the cut in official U.S. aid. Another round of negotiations with the Sandinist government is scheduled for 18 February in Guatemala.

Francisco de Andres: Mr Chamorro, did the decision by the U.S. Congress surprise the Resistance?

Pedro Joaquin Chamorro: We were indeed afraid there would be strong opposition from Democrats, but we also hoped the aid package would be approved. Nevertheless we do not consider the war lost because we have won the publicity and image battle in the United States. Newspapers such as THE WASHINGTON POST and THE MIAMI HERALD, hitherto very critical of us, now unconditionally support the granting of both military and nonlethal aid to the Nicaraguan Resistance.

Francisco de Andres: Would you accept strictly humanitarian aid such as food and clothing, as some sectors propose?

Pedro Joaquin Chamorro: Strictly humanitarian aid channeled through the Red Cross is unacceptable because it is aid to a surrender, not to a war. President Reagan himself has warned that if the Democrats propose this kind of aid he will be the first to veto it.

Francisco de Andres: According to some reports, your present military supplies will last no more than 6 months. During this time will you be able to secure enough private aid to compensate for the suspended U.S. Government supplies?

Pedro Joaquin Chamorro: I can neither confirm nor deny what our present military resources are nor say what will happen in the future, since that will depend on what course the war takes. In a few days' time the National Resistance Steering Committee will hold a long meeting to assess our new military position and to adopt relevant measures. As for private aid, it is a possibility that we are encouraging, though so far it is only a possibility.

Francisco de Andres: What will happen with the direct talks that you are conducting with the Sandinist authorities? Do you believe that following the U.S. Congress decision the Managua government will try to avoid them, considering them unnecessary now?

Pedro Joaquin Chamorro: I believe the Sandinistas will try to hold them because they are well-aware that the issue is not yet settled. The final word has not yet been said in this conflict and the Managua government will not be stupid enough to avoid talks. At the same time, however, it is possible that they could adopt a more radical stance at the negotiating table and demand from us a surrender that will not materialize.

Francisco de Andres: If you are forced to dismantle your military organization, however, what will happen to the 14,000 men that you have mobilized? Would they be willing to take advantage of an amnesty granted under favorable conditions by the Sandinist Government?

Pedro Joaquin Chamorro: It will be a decision for each individual, though I can assure you that not many will prefer to stay in Nicaragua and expose themselves to Sandinist repression. Our fighters will probably choose certain peaceful Central American countries, especially Costa Rica, which could be invaded by an outright tide of political refugees and peasants from Nicaragua.

Francisco de Andres: You have lived on American aid, perhaps turning your backs on other resources, and are now suffering the consequences of having put all your eggs in one basket, whereas the Sandinist government preferred to work on its image and to undermine that of the contras in Europe and Latin America. Do you not believe the Managua government has been victorious in this field?

Pedro Joaquin Chamorro: Listen, I will be honest with you. There is a great deal of idle talk in Europe and Latin America about peace in Central America, democracy, and so forth, but the only one to have turned its words into deeds is the United States. I can assure you many Latin American politicians who claim to be populist and anti-American secretly want the United States to resolve the problem of communism in Nicaragua once and for all. The same applies in Europe. You have seen how Ortega allows himself to travel and to be regarded there as the Latin American Robin Hood. The greater the distance between the Europeans and Central America, the greater their ignorance of what is going on here. In any case, if we need U.S. aid it is because it is the only power that can stand up to a regime that receives—without criticisms or objections—military aid from the other major power, the Soviet Union.

Violations, Interference of Sovereignty Viewed

PA162022 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0400 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Among the many meanings of the word sovereignty, we emphasize the following: political status of a nation or an organization that is not subject to the control of another nation or organization.

When the 1984 elections were held, the opposition parties comprising the Democratic Coordinating Board refused to participate because the process lacked guarantees. There was no freedom of movement, freedom to campaign, or freedom of information. The television stations did not permit a free and broad interplay of ideas, but instead imposed numerous restrictions, which, of course, were not applied to the government party. Supervision was requested from international organizations, such as the OAS, to which the FSLN had pledged before it came to power that it would hold free elections as soon as possible. Five years went by before the people were granted their right to vote.

With regard to human rights—freedom of the press, of information, and of expression, etc.—no precondition was accepted on the premise that this undermined the nation's sovereignty and that the government was not prepared to permit foreign intervention in Nicaragua's affairs.

Seen from the nationalist perspective, the Sandinist position was correct, although the opposition's arguments that the FSLN would not keep its word were also valid. This is just what happened. The elections were later described as a failure, even by the parties that participated—a failure that resulted from the fact that

the process was not honest. This has led to a state of desperation among the people, who see their political, economic, and social rights curtailed; this has resulted in a complete regression in their development and their state of well-being.

We have returned to the levels of 1950, and today no viable solutions have yet been presented. The language of imposition, arrogance, and force continues to be used, and peace and freedom are more distant every day, having become almost an illusion. Our sovereignty, which was defended with such ardor in 1984, today is being violated and trampled upon with the complacency of the Sandinists, who not only permit the interference of other states in our affairs, but actually invite countries that play their game to come and put their fingers in the pie.

We could say the sovereignty of this country is presently the most manhandled. We definitely are not a sovereign country but an international house inhabited by comrades of all nationalities, especially the socialist or prosocialist countries. There is a desperate clamor for a dialogue with the United States, for Contadora and its Support Group to resolve our problems, for the International Verification and Follow-up Commission to state whether or not the FSLN is complying with the Esquipulas II agreement, which in itself is an extraneous element in our institutional life.

Socialist International serves as a loudspeaker [multiplicador] for the Sandinists, announcing with great fanfare that this is a great democracy. The superpowers do their own thing, and, to top it all, Spanish military officers—the conquerers of the past, because of whom so much blood was shed in America for emancipation, so that we could be liberated and sovereign—have been invited to come and issue a ruling on Nicaragua's internal affairs.

Where does that leave the Nicaraguans? The Catholic Church—representing the country's major religion—the political parties, labor organizations, private business, the housewife, the common citizen, our youths, Nicaraguans in general? What is our place, what role do we play in that movie concerning the resolution of our problems? None. Once actors, we have now become simple spectators. Once homeowners, we have now become undesirable guests, with neither voice nor vote nor even the right to demand good food. We have been forced to gather up the crusts of dry bread, the crumbs from the table of those who are in power. And sovereignty? Ah, sovereignty. Good-bye and good luck. Thank you very much.

Briefs

PCN Officials Elected

Fernando "Negro" Chamorro has been elected departmental [unspecified] president of the Nicaraguan Conservative Party [PCN]. Ramon Acevedo was elected vice president, (?Larry Shower) was elected secretary, and Emiliano Enriquez deputy secretary. [Summary] *[Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Feb 88]*

Panama

Delvalle Returns From U.S. 'Medical Checkup'

PA182012 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1909 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Panama City, 18 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle returned to the country today, Wednesday, after undergoing a medical checkup in a U.S. hospital, it was unofficially reported today.

Delvalle, who has suffered from a heart ailment for several years, left Panama on 12 February for Miami, accompanied by close relatives and Alberto Garcia de Paredes, the new Panamanian consul to New York, who replaced Jose Blandon on 15 January.

Delvalle's absence coincided with the 4-day holiday decreed by the government on the occasion of carnival.

The Directorate of Information and Public Relations of the Panamanian Presidency has remained silent on the president's return.

Government Closes Opposition Newspaper EXTRA

PA190411 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0327 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Panama City, 18 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The District Attorney's Office in Panama City this evening closed the opposition daily EXTRA for the purpose of investigating some "allegedly punishable activities" that have been carried out. This information was provided to ACAN-EFE by Francisco Arias, manager of LA PRENSA, another opposition daily.

An official from the District Attorney's Office told Arias that the authorities had to carry out an investigation in the newspaper's offices and for this reason the paper's staff had to leave. The official also said there is no time limit for the investigation. EXTRA is printed in the print shop of the daily LA PRENSA, although the two newspapers are two different enterprises. [passage omitted]

Radio Chiriqui Casts Restricted to Music, Ads

PA190459 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] The Government and Justice Ministry has issued a resolution signed by Minister Rodolfo Chiari De Leon permitting the reopening of Radio Chiriqui as of yesterday, but allowing broadcasts of only music and advertisements.

The resolution was read to station owner Manuel Ramon Guerra at the ministry notifying him that the station could resume broadcasting without the radio news broadcasts that are usually heard.

The newscasts affected are "La Prensa," under the direction of Manuel Ramon Guerra; "Opinion," under the direction of Wilfredo Justavino; "Impacto," under the direction of Juan B Gomez; and "Tribune of Conscience" ["Tribuna de Conciencia"], under the direction of Librado Montenegro.

Radio Chiriqui will broadcast without news or religious programs until it receives official notification to resume them.

Requests To Form Political Parties Canceled
PA181840 Panama City EXTRA in Spanish 12 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] The Electoral Tribunal has declared the requests to form the Social Democratic, Popular Broad Front [FRAMPO], and Humanist Parties "null and void" because they do not meet the Electoral Code's requirements.

An Electoral Tribunal resolution stated that the Social Democratic Party, whose legal representative is Carlos Ernesto Gonzalez de la Lastra, did not meet the requirements for registering supporters and did not ask for the registration to be reopened, so the request to form the party was declared abandoned.

Another resolution stated that FRAMPO's request was canceled because the party did not obtain the minimum percentage of supporters during the registration period needed to remain a party.

This was the case with the Humanist Party also.

Argentina

Further Criticism of UK Falklands Exercise

Deputies Repudiate Maneuvers

PY181318 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1048 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Feb (TELAM)—The Chamber of Deputies has strongly repudiated a British Government decision to perform a major military maneuver, which is a provocation against Argentina, adding that the objective of the maneuvers is to train the British forces and to reinforce the powerful military deployment in the Malvinas Islands.

The deputies stated that this decision is similar to other arbitrary measures that have been adopted with no legal grounds whatsoever, like the imposition of an exclusion zone and the recent granting of more than 70 fishing permits to operate in a large area over which Argentina claims sovereignty.

The deputies' resolution, which was sponsored by Justicialist Deputy Eduardo Vaca, was unanimously approved during a session prior to the questioning of Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena and Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia.

The resolution states that the Chamber would be pleased if the executive branch, through the Foreign Ministry and its diplomatic representative, called for urgent OAS and UN Security Council meetings, so that these organizations might evaluate the potential risk to peace in the South Atlantic, which will be jeopardized by the deployment of a big military base in the Malvinas Archipelago.

The resolution states that the two international organizations should note that the decision to carry out large-scale military maneuvers has unveiled the continuation of an aggressive policy that goes against the search for solutions, and this is inspired by the use of force, in an effort to obtain a political advantage over Argentina, which is peacefully trying to recover its sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands.

UN Conference Addressed

PY181953 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1637 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Geneva, 18 Feb (EFE)—Argentine Ambassador Mario Campora and British representative Tissa Solesby today referred to the announced military maneuvers on the Malvinas Islands in their respective speeches at the UN conference on disarmament.

Campora stated that the announced British military maneuvers "have no justification or reasonable explanation." He added that Argentina supports the UN resolution which declares the South Atlantic a zone of peace and cooperation.

He said: "Unfortunately it is not easy to apply this resolution while tensions are created by the announcement of military maneuvers in the Malvinas Islands zone."

"The international behavior of nations must be honest, and a country that promises to respect a zone of peace and cooperation and at the same time sows seeds of tensions and threats is engaging in a contradiction impossible to understand," he stated.

Tissa Solesby then took the floor and stated that such military maneuvers are "mere defensive exercises, with no intention of causing provocation," although she added that "not long ago the United Kingdom had sufficient reason to maintain its defensive force on the Falkland Islands."

The Argentine representative replied: "Countries that focus attention on wars of the past keep thinking of wars of the future, leading us to an endless spiral which does not contribute to efforts for peace by the international community and this disarmament conference."

Deputies Question Ministers on Rico Rebellion

PY181804 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1146 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 18 Feb (DYN)—Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia and Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena have confirmed to the Chamber of Deputies the existence of specific plans to kill Air Force Chief of Staff Brigadier Ernesto Crespo, but not President Raul Alfonsin.

During a half-hearted interpellation that lasted almost 9 hours the Peronist deputies, who had requested that the two ministers give explanations to Congress, did not focus their questions on the scope of the movement headed by Aldo Rico, but rather on other issues related to the Armed Forces' policy. During the session the two ministers reiterated the government's decision not to issue an amnesty law to benefit those involved in the recent military rebellions or those charged with violating human rights.

In response to a specific question, Nosiglia asserted "we do not have documents" specifically mentioning Raul Alfonsin as the target of an attack by the cell that temporarily occupied the metropolitan airport.

Interior Ministry Secretary Juan Gauna, on the other hand, stated that "the ideology of the members of that group leads one to believe an attack of that nature is possible."

The ministers gave explanations to the Chamber of Deputies in the course of an interpellation called by the Justicialist Party bloc, during which Jaunarena asserted that what was really at stake in the recent incidents at Monte Caseros "were the Armed Forces themselves."

The minister, who showed a series of slides—an unusual resource—to explain some of the incidents, asserted that "a group of irresponsible individuals intended to turn the Armed Forces into armed gangs, running the obvious risk of their Sovietization."

In his report Jaunarena admitted that Army Chief of Staff General Dante Caridi, "with the ministry's approval," had twice contacted former commanders Jorge Videla and Roberto Viola at the Magdalena Prison "with the purpose of learning about the conditions under which they are being held under arrest, and to see for himself some of the improvements that are being made in those conditions."

Before the debate began the various political blocs represented in the Chamber of Deputies agreed that they would discuss the recent military incidents in order to learn more about them and not for political purposes. Jaunarena gave a detailed report on the military developments which took place during the military rebellion in Monte Caseros headed by former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico. During his talk, the minister asserted that "what was really at stake at that moment were the Armed Forces themselves, in view of the actions carried out by a group of irresponsible individuals who, with their behavior, were going to turn the Armed Forces into true armed gangs."

In Jaunarena's opinion there was a serious risk of the "Sovietization" of the Armed Forces because at one point "there was also a discussion as to who was in authority—the commander in chief of the Armed Forces (President Raul Alfonsin) or the units in rebellion."

During his report, Jaunarena gave a detailed account of developments during the military rebellion, from the moment Aldo Rico fled from the Los Fresnos Country Club to his rebellion at the 4th Infantry Regiment, and surrender to the troops headed by General Caridi.

Before giving this report, the minister firmly defended the government's military policy and at the same time maintained that "military crises are not the sole patrimony of democratic governments but a constant factor in Argentine history." He mentioned the clashes between "Generals Lonardi and Aramburu, Ongania and Lanusse, and most recently, the Videla-Galtieri case and everything that came after that." [passage omitted]

Rico Releases New Document From Prison
PY170310 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2250 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Feb (NA)—Former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico, who headed the Holy Week and Monte Caseros military rebellions, today released a new proclamation from his Monte Caseros [as received] prison. Rico states that "the leaders of all sectors should ask themselves how long it will take until another 17 October" [referring to 17 October 1945, when Juan Peron was rescued from prison by a workers revolution that eventually led him to the presidency], or even an "operation dignity [Rico's term for his coup attempts] takes place in Argentina."

He also said that in the event of such a rebellion, the leaders must ask themselves "just how violent it will be and what ideological overtones or inclination it will have." Rico made these comments in a handwritten "letter addressed to the public," which was given to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS today.

In what he calls "refections from prison," the former lieutenant colonel says that "power should be backed by thought" and "an intellectual structure." He also said that Argentine society is "tired of failures and deeply disappointed and has reached the point of no longer believing in power."

"The recent military rebellions which I headed fall within this context," Rico said in his document.

"The intermediate and younger military sectors that rebelled during Holy Week tried to overcome their frustrations. These frustrations are reflected in generals who have not evolved intellectually since 1976," Rico stated.

Those generals, he adds, have been "incapable of understanding or facing the new demands of order and obedience that are a result of the war against subversion and the Malvinas War. They also demonstrated a type of spiritual defection when they did not react to attacks made by the Alfonsin government on military policy. They turned their backs on their colleagues."

"It seems that the Holy Week rebellion served as a reservoir that released tensions. These tensions prevented officers from rebelling in the past." [sentence as received]

Rico stated that "the Peronist victory in the recent elections and the many labor strikes and lock-outs are clear examples of reactions against the socioeconomic situation."

He then adds: "Successive governments have turned this nation, once prosperous and able to progress, into a country that has ceased to produce wealth. Therefore, it is impossible to think about fairly distributing wealth and, even less, about paying debts. The problem is—as Mr Canitrot [Argentine economic planning and coordinating secretary] has frankly and cynically said—to administrate poverty."

Rico believes this is "a country where it seems the best way to guarantee your own prosperity is to become a state supplier, a public employee, a union leader, a politician, or a representative."

He added: "Among the public employees I include many military officers who have held such posts, and I apologize to the exceptions—and there are many—because many of my friends are among them."

He also believes that "we must all worry about the situation of Argentine society, not only about the military crisis, the Monte Caseros uprising, or the decision of a captain to go underground."

He said: "These are the effects of the profound crisis affecting a sector of society that is not the most important. Will our children attend classes as usual this year, a year that began in a complicated manner? Will the government declare a moratorium?"

Rico adds: "Today we can read on the front page of a newspaper: Rebellion within the Argentine Industrial Union [UIA]. The UIA last night decided to ignore the DGI [General Directorate of Taxation]. This decision to ignore the government attacks the very root of government, because government excercises its power only through sound thinking, and is maintained for as long as it can distribute resources."

According to Rico, "Argentina is exhausting its resources, despite the confiscatory tax policy, because the impoverished people no longer can or want to pay to support an indebted government that oppresses them, that restricts them, that does not guarantee their right to struggle, and that eliminates the possibility for them to progress."

Rico then asks: "What will happen if the people decide to stop paying their taxes, their electricity or gas bills? What if the people decide to stop consuming gasoline, cigarrettes, alcoholic beverages—which, by the way, will improve their health—in sum, if they fail to respect the green light?"

"I believe," Rico says, "that the leaders of the various sectors should ask themselves how long it will take Argentine society to produce another 17 October in the broadest sense of the word, or to stage its own Operation Dignity. They should also decide how violent these changes will be and according to which ideological tendencies they will be staged."

In Rico's opinion, "It is high time these leaders think about the need to adopt a passive, profound, and global attitude to create a coexistence pattern that will prevent the risk of plunging the country into a conflict similar to that of the 1970's."

"During my stay at the Lemos Military School and at Los Fresnos, I held lengthy talks with representatives of the political parties, with union leaders, businessmen, industrials, intellectuals, etc. These talks, and my knowledge about the ordinary men who are the real builders of the country's wealth, and who still have to pay for the mistaken policies of the bad administrations, have convinced me that (?our) society fervently seeks to change and to progress in harmony."

Rico concluded by saying: "It is obvious that the current leaders do not have the ability to carry out this task."

Officer Goes Underground 'To Fight Marxism'

PY181901 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1448 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 18 Feb (NA)—In a note sent to journalistic sources, Captain Ernesto Larramendi has announced that he will "go underground" to fight Marxism, like his peer, Sanchez Zinny.

Military sources consulted by NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS have confirmed that Larramendi has not reported to his post, thus leading to the conclusion that he has actually gone underground.

Larramendi, a 33-year-old officer and the father of three daughters, was actively engaged in the fight against subversion waged by the Army.

In his note, which is strongly anti-Marxist, he says he talked with Army Chief of Staff Division General Jose Dante Caridi.

Larramendi also said that he talked with Presidential Secretary General Carlos Becerra and presidential advisers Aldo Tessio, Carlos Acuna, and Alfredo Raimundi. In his note, the officer strongly criticized Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and Defense Secretary Raul Alconada Sempe.

His action has cast a shadow on the situation that has prevailed within the Armed Forces during the first 2 months of the year. The sector has begun a restructuring stage with Caridi imposing punishments within the Army, where other officers who supported the revolt headed by former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico in January will be sent into retirement, while three others will be discharged.

Larramendi is one of the officers who actively engaged in the revolt headed by Rico during Holy Week last year. [passage omitted]

Army Issues Communique

PY190305 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2341 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Feb (TELAM)—The Army Staff has reported that Captains Martin Sanchez Zinny and Ernesto Larramendi have been declared in contempt of court, that a pretrial inquest is being conducted, and that Zinny and Larramendi have been discharged from the Army.

The Army also reported that Captain Pedro Emilio Morello is the only officer who, without reason, has failed to report to the Army and that a pretrial inquest is being conducted concerning dereliction of duty.

The Army Staff communique states the following:

In view of the fact that several mass media sources are disseminating reports in connection with the status of a given number of Army officers, the Army Staff reports the following:

1. Captains Martin Sanchez Zinny and Ernesto Larramendi have been declared in contempt of court, a pretrial inquest is being conducted, and Zinny and Larramendi have been discharged from the Army.

2. Captain Pedro Emilio Morello is the only officer who, without any reason, has failed to report to the Army, and a pretrial inquest is being conducted for dereliction of duty.

Collective Bargaining Decree Promulgated

PY171416 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1232 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 17 Feb (NA)—The executive branch has approved Decrees 199 and 200, which regulate labor-management collective bargaining negotiating boards [paritarias] without establishing restrictions regarding salary guidelines or the right to strike.

The decrees, signed by President Raul Alfonsin and Labor Minister Ideler Tonelli, were released at Government House last night. They grant labor-management boards 60 days to report on results of negotiations. This period can be extended for another 60 days.

This regulation is substantially different from the one released a couple of days ago regulating labor-management relations in public administration. Under the public administration regulation, boards are not able to negotiate clauses of automatic salary adjustments, and the right to strike is restricted in essential public services.

Agreements can be approved only by the labor minister, labor secretary and under secretary, and the national director of labor relations. The latter will establish at the time of approval who is covered, in what areas, and how long the agreement will be in effect.

The decree further establishes that before denying approval of an agreement, government authorities will convey to the parties involved their objections and will invite them to reconsider it.

Decree 199 establishes the criteria the Labor Ministry will use to intevene in negotiations. This intervention can originate with the ministry or at the request of the parties involved. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Large Gas Find Announced

Energy Secretary Jorge Lapena today confirmed that the Argentine-French corporation working off shore in San Sebastian Bay, Tierra del Fuego, has found a new gas deposit that increases the total Argentine reserves by 50 percent. Lapena added that the commercial exploitation will start next year. [Summary] *[Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Feb 88 PY]*

Bolivia

Yugoslav Trade Mission Arrives on Visit

PY181550 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 9 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] An important Yugoslav trade mission comprised of high-ranking officials and businessmem arrived from Buenos Aires last night. The purpose of the mission is to sign cooperation agreements with government enterprises and to create trade firms with the private sector in different fields, particularly the oil field.

The visit of this important investment group to Bolivia, part of a tour to some Latin American countries, was organized by representatives of All Trade Consult [ATC], S.A. in Bolivia. The mission intends to sign cooperation agreements in the following fields:

—Exploitation and drilling for and production of gas and oil in state concessions.

—The buying and selling of oil and gas products and by-products.

—Exchange of capital goods, services, and technology, together with raw and semimanufactured materials.

—Participation in petrochemical and fertilizer-production projects. Exchange of capital goods, services, raw materials, and by-products. (Possible joint ventures) [preceding two words in English]

—Prospecting and production in the mining sector. Exchange of machinery, equipment, technology, services, raw materials and by-products. (Possible joint ventures and/or associations with state and/or private companies).

The mission will also hear suggestions from the public and private sectors.

The Yugoslav INA-ATC [expansion unknown] Group mission comprises Petar Flekovic, INA Group president and former Croatian prime minister; Aleksandr Broz, INA Group vice president and son of the late Yugoslav Marshal Tito, in charge of international business; Mavro Popijac, INA Naftaplin and INA Gas and Petroleum president; Ivan Broz, INA trade director; Bozidar Omrcen, vice president of INA Naftaplin (in charge of gas and exploration, plus production and technologies); Bartol Kuvezdic, vice president of INA Naftaplin (in charge of international business); Carlos W. Badrutt, ATC, SA-Switzerland president; and Josip Tolja, ATC Marine, SA-Switzerland president.

During their 4-day visit, the eight members of the Yugoslav INA-ATC Corporation will hold talks with Senate President Ciro Humboldt Barrero. They are scheduled to meet with the latter at 1000 today. Then they will meet with Chamber of Deputies President Willy Vargas and Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal.

Meets With President

PY181552 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 12 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] A Yugoslav investment and hydrocarbons prospecting mission is visiting our country. The businessmen plan to sign a letter of intent to improve relations between Bolivia and Yugoslavia.

The All-Trade Consult firm of Switzerland was the intermediary organizing the visit of the Yugoslav mission, which met with President Paz Estenssoro yesterday.

The conglomerate's president told the press that the Bolivian Government has the intention of signing a document establishing the guidelines for the future work of the firm in Bolivia.

The businessmen said they were pleased by President Paz Estenssoro's views and position regarding the prospects for future agreements.

In the next few hours, the documents allowing the operation of the conglomerate in Bolivia, within the framework of the basic respect for our laws, will be signed.

Price of Gasoline Increased; COB Protests

PY151327 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] President Victor Paz Estenssoro's administration has decided to increase the price of gasoline. According to Resolution No 1288 of the Ministry of Energy and Hydrocarbons, regular gasoline will cost 0.52 Bolivian pesos per liter, while premium gasoline will cost 0.60 Bolivian pesos.

When Bolivian Government Oil Deposits [YPFB] officials announced this decision, they explained that the price of liquefied petroleum gas [LPG] will remain 4 Bolivian pesos per 10-kg bottle. The officials added that the supply of fuels is normal, and measures will be taken to avoid unnecessary lines at service stations. Gasoline will not be sold after 1000 on Tuesday but sales will be resumed on Wednesday.

The resolution of the Energy and Hydrocarbons Ministry has elicited reactions from labor sectors throughout the country. The COB said the gasoline price hike will harm the economy in general, and the poor people in particular. The Federation of Oil Workers also issued a communique stating that the price increase will affect the prices of staples and services.

Meanwhile the Bolivian Government has reiterated that the decision to increase the price of gasoline does not harm the nation's economy and is aimed only at establishing realistic prices, thus preventing fuel smuggling to neighboring countries.

'Doubtful Origin' Currency Boosts Accounts

PY160345 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0404 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] La Paz, 14 Feb (EFE)—According to official statistics, the dollars resulting from illegal activities such as drug trafficking and smuggling have represented an important portion of the Bolivian balance of payments in the last 3 years.

The Bolivian Central Bank cash account called or termed "mistakes and omissions," which is made up of currency of "doubtful origin," received $180.5 million in deposits in 1985, $209 million in 1986, and $132 million in 1987.

Central Bank officials point out the reduced amount of "doubtful origin" dollars deposited in the account in 1987, and believe it is due to greater government control over drug trafficking.

The importance of the results of illegal activities in the Bolivian economy is confirmed when we compare the amount of dollars obtained "illegally" and those resulting from exports.

In 1987, the total exports of the Bolivian private sector amounted to $143 million while the illegal activities yielded $132 million.

Briefs

Lines of Credit Reported

Ricardo Rojas, manager of the Central Bank Development Department, has reported that the country has a total of 24 lines of credit for a total of $368 million, and that $175 million is now available for the implementation of several productive projects. He stated that these

credits are being regularly disbursed and that since 1987 a total of $72 million has been disbursed. He said that the IDB has approved credits for the agricultural sector amounting to $100 million, and that the Andean Development Corporation has granted a $20-million credit, among others. [Summary] *[La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 11 Feb 88 PY]*

Brazil

Government Expresses Concern on UK Maneuvers

PY182353 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] In a note delivered by the Brazilian Embassy in London, the Brazilian Government expressed its concern over the UK military maneuvers being conducted in the Malvinas Islands.

According to the Brazilian Government, these maneuvers will introduce elements that will not help detente in the region.

Abreu Sodre on Arms Race, Nuclear Test Ban

PY190315 Brasilia Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] In Geneva, Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre today proposed the creation of a special UN committee to negotiate a nuclear test ban. He is also seeking a treaty to guarantee the peaceful use of outer space. The proposals were introduced at the 10th UN Conference on Disarmament.

Abreu Sodre said all agreements must be safeguarded in order to guarantee peace.

[Begin Abreu Sodre recording] Brazil is now interested in restoring a consensus on nonproliferation as it was originally established in favor of more equitable and less oligarchic models as established in the TNP [Nonproliferation Treaty]. In fact, this will favor international cooperation for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. [end recording]

The Brazilian foreign minister expressed hopes that a draft agreement will be signed in 1988 to ban chemical weapons and destroy existing arsenals.

Nobrega on Debt Negotiations, U.S. Measures

PY121502 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 11 Feb 88 p 25

[Excerpts] Brasilia—During his next visit to the United States [13 February] Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega will tell James Baker, U.S. treasury secretary, that the Brazilian Government considers negotiations in the commercial area and those regarding the foreign debt as inseparable. According to Science and Technology Minister Luiz Henrique, during his meeting with Baker, Mailson will reiterate the request that the threats of retaliatory measures against Brazilian imports be lifted. The Brazilian Government is already making this request through normal diplomatic channels. [passage omitted]

Minister Henrique said Mailson will explain to U.S. authorities that any retaliatory measure will have a negative impact on the Brazilian people and jeopardize foreign debt negotiations.

The Brazilian Government believes that the retaliatory threats were caused by the denial of a license to a U.S. computer program in Brazil, but the license has now been authorized. Luiz Henrique said "the government has done its part." Now it is up to the U.S. Government to say that it has suspended the retaliatory measures, he said. [passage omitted]

Luiz Henrique said that although the United States does not accept any link between the retaliatory measures and the negotiations, the intention is to link one to the other. He asserted that "any reprisal will jeopardize the negotiations."

Views Creditors' Proposal

PY120249 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] The creditor banks have officially submitted to the Brazilian Government a proposal for negotiating the foreign debt. In Brasilia Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega announced that he will try to improve the creditor banks' proposal.

[Begin recording] [Announcer] The finance minister celebrated the proposal made by the creditor banks. The creditors have not made concrete proposals to Brazil in the last 3 years; therefore, the proposal is a positive sign for the government that the negotiations are moving ahead. However, extensive talks are still needed. The banks are offering $5 billion but Brazil wants more than $7 billion to refinance the interest it owes for 1987, 1988, and part of 1989. Minister Mailson da Nobrega said there is room for improving the proposal.

[Nobrega] I am going to contact officials of the U.S. Government multilateral organizations, and the banks. I am under the impression that these contacts are going to help speed up an understanding for Brazil and the banks to reach a satisfactory agreement on important questions regarding the medium-term debt. [end recording]

Minister Nobrega is leaving for the United States on 13 February to talk about the proposals made by the creditors.

Army Minister Answers Guimaraes' Criticism

PY190308 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Army Minister Leonidas Pires Goncalves today rejected Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes' criticism of the military junta that governed the country at the end of the 1960's.

In an interview yesterday in Sao Paulo, Guimaraes criticized the 1969 Constitution and called the members of the military junta the three stooges. The following is the text of the Army minister's declaration:

Quote, the criticism made by Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes of three respected and respectable military chiefs was unfortunate and unjust. During an historic time the military chiefs made a decision which they believed was in the interests of Brazil. I am convinced that Guimaraes would not repeat today the regrettable remarks he made at a moment of uncontrolled emotion. No public man is free from being unjustly judged; therefore, evaluating the past without remembering the circumstances under which past events occurred is inappropriate, unquote.

In Brasilia, Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes said that it was not his intention to criticize the military men.

[Begin Guimaraes recording] I have the greatest respect for the military men. I think they represent an institution and we recognize that. They have contacted me about preserving that institution. I was one of the first to be interested in sponsoring the defense of that institution in the Constitution. [end recording]

Chile

Foreign Debt Negotiator Returns From U.S.

PY161253 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] Chilean foreign debt negotiator Hernan Sommerville, who was in New York negotiating the rescheduling of obligations owed to the creditor banks, has returned to Chile. The Central Bank, however, reported that Sommerville was due to return next Saturday. A second round of talks will begin on 2 March. It is expected that the proposals formulated during the first round will be implemented at that time. The Central Bank reported that the creditor banks and Sommerville and his negotiating team—made up of (Italo Traverso) and (Juan Enrique Ala)—carried out a detailed analysis of the balance of payments for the coming years, with a view toward making more flexible the repayment terms of the overdue obligations. The Central Bank said that the negotiations held in New York were positive, that an agreement has been reached on some issues, and that the pending issues will be solved in the next round of talks.

Interior Minister Criticizes PDC President

PY151326 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez has refuted a statement by Patricio Aylwin, president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], who criticized the Constitution.

Minister Fernandez said that when the PDC was in power, it allowed the deterioration of individual liberties.

In a recent statement, Aylwin proposed to the government the need for a television debate on whether or not the current Constitution allows the implementation of a democracy.

Minister Fernandez said he regretted what Aylwin had stated, noting that certain sectors cannot resist the temptation to turn any issue into a subject for a television or radio show.

The minister also criticized the politicians by noting the inability of those who promote state control and socialization to understand what democracy, liberty, and the relationship between these two principles mean.

Democracy, said Fernandez, should be regarded from the Western point of view: It is a form of government whose objective and purpose consists of strengthening a society of free individuals.

Liberty, economic opening, and the freedom of individuals to determine their daily activities and interests within their social sphere are requisites that should exist within a harmonious system so that a democratic society can really exist.

Regarding the Constitution, which was approved by the great majority and which establishes the grounds for an unquestionable democracy, he said nobody can really deny its existence.

Minister Fernandez ended by stating he does not believe issues as important as these can be seriously and reasonably analyzed during a television debate, as suggested by Aylwin in an expression of the irresistible temptation of certain politicians.

Acting PDC Head Responds

PY171330 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Andres Zaldivar, acting president of the PDC, has said that if the guarantees provided for in the Constitution exist nobody will be able to say the plebiscite was a fraud and if the yes-vote wins, people will have to accept the defeat.

Zaldivar thus refuted a statement by Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez criticizing the PDC stance.

During a news conference the PDC leader refuted Fernandez' statement by referring to the minister's background.

[Begin Zaldivar recording] I think the minister should look into his own background before stirring up polemics regarding the support for state control and socialization. By so doing he might find that he, himself, has supported state control and socialization. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Zaldivar said his party has never stated that a victory of the yes-vote would be the result of a fraud.

[Begin Zaldivar recording] We have never said that if the no-vote wins the plebiscite will be considered legitimate and if the yes-vote wins it will be considered illegitimate. The plebiscite will be legitimate and clean if certain requisites that will guarantee freedom of expression of the Chileans' sovereign will are observed. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

FPMR Criticizes Opposition Accord on No Vote
PY140208 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
2200 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] The FPMR [Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front], an armed branch of the outlawed PCCh, has harshly criticized the 13 political groups that agreed to vote no in the upcoming plebiscite. An FPMR communique, which has been received by several news agencies, terms the alliance of the opposition parties a joke because of its ambiguousness and attempt to please everyone.

The FPMR also criticizes opposition leader Patricio Aylwin and states that the other political leaders who have endorsed the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]'s position will regret this decision later. The FPMR communique also condemns the document entitled: An Alternate Government Plan.

The FPMR claims responsibility for the bombings that the so-called Lautaro Detachment carried out in Concepcion early this month to remind military prosecutor Fernando Torres that there is a pending death threat against him.

The Almeyda-led faction of the Socialist Party agreed to support a broad opposition alliance, thus openly contradicting the terrorists. The FPMR also said they will not heed the calls and lurings of the PPD [Party for Democracy] to join the followers of Ricardo Lagos because this would be an outright mistake. These remarks were made by German Correa, a leader of Almeyda's Socialist faction and one of the main supporters of the wave of terrorist attacks that will begin in Chile in March.

Correa stated that there is no crisis within the United Left and that he will not authorize United Left members to lend their signatures for the legalization of the PPD. The Almeyda-led faction wants to promote all groups that support terrorism such as the outlawed communists. These Marxist groups are hypocritical: They smile at the PDC and its satellites in the opposition alliance, while also joining the communists in condemning the plebiscite and in predicting, in a propaganda ploy, a fraud that only exists in the terrorists' mind.

New Pro-Government Independent Front Launched
PY181828 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
1600 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Excerpt] A new independent front has recently appeared with the foundation of the National Civic Organization [Organizacion Civica Nacional ORCINA]. The new group of independent individuals, who support the government and will favor the yes-vote during the upcoming plebiscite, is headed by Aquiles Petit and Raul Arevalo. [passage omitted]

Radical Democratic Party Officially Registers
PY181836 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
1600 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Today the Radical Democratic Party legally registered as a party in the stage of formation, in compliance with the Law on Political Parties. [passage omitted] The request for registration was presented on 18 December 1987 by Jaime Tormo, president of the party, and (Rafael Otero Echevarria), the national secretary. [passage omitted]

Green Party Registers With Electoral Service
PY181839 Santiago LA SEGUNDA in Spanish
5 Feb 88 p 15

[Excerpts] The Green Party [Partido Los Verdes] today registered with the Electoral Service with 119 signatures, a sunflower as its symbol, and the following slogan: "The answer to a threatened life." This movement, whose platform states it supports "ecology, pacifism, and nondiscrimination," is led by Andres Koryzma (president), and Ana L'Homme, Paula Salinas, Rafael Edwards, and Enrique Rau, who are the members of the organization that was until now known as Green Future. [passage omitted]

Although they admit they originated with the Greens in the FRG, Koryzma said they are beyond the rightist and leftist parties, because they have other objectives. "We are a post-Pinochet party, and we are totally different from the traditional parties," he said, adding that they cannot be considered a new leftist party either. [passage omitted]

New Vice Foreign Minister Confirmed
PY172048 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
1600 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] The official gazette today published an Interior Ministry decree confirming the appointment of Brigadier General Ernesto Videla Cifuentes as vice foreign minister. The voluntary resignation of Brigadier General Francisco Hernandez was also accepted under the same decree.

The new vice foreign minister assumed his job on 2 January. Videla is an important official who participated in the papal mediation in the conflict with Argentina. Videla's performance was highly praised by the government, the country, and abroad.

Group Sends Death Threat to Cardinal Silva

PY190311 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1401 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Santiago, 18 Feb (EFE)—The independent newspaper LA EPOCA reported today that Santiago Archbishop Cardinal Raul Silva Henriquez has received a death threat from the ultra-right-wing group "Chilean Anticommunist Action" [Accion Chilena Anticomunista, ACHA].

The newspaper said the archbishop himself confirmed this report upon his return to Chile last Saturday after a 1-month visit to Spain and other European countries.

Upon returning to Santiago and reviewing his mail, LA EPOCA reports, "he found an envelope containing direct death threats addressed to him" signed by the "ACHA" group.

The cardinal has given the letter to one of the people who regularly accompanies him to his house in the neighborhood of Nunoa, in the southeastern sector of Santiago, and asked him to destroy it.

A few days ago, the same ultra-right-wing group sent a note to a confederation of food service workers, addressed to Cardinal Silva Henriquez, in which they claim responsibility for the kidnapping of five young communists who have been missing since September 1987.

"You will no longer see them as you saw them before. ACHA does not forgive anyone," was the macabre warning written next to the picture of the five youths. The Catholic Church, the nuncio, human rights organizations, and several sectors of the country have made repeated appeals for the lives and physical safety of these missing youths.

Prosecutor Says Cuba, USSR Send Terrorists

PY181726 Santiago FORTIN MAPOCHO in Spanish 9 Feb 88 p 12

[Excerpt] Ad Hoc Military Prosecutor Fernando Torres yesterday said, outside the Military Court, that Cuba and the Soviet Union "without a doubt" continue to send trained extremists to Chile.

Torres told journalists that among the group of more than 100 people indicted in connection with cases under investigation by his court "at least 30 to 40 percent have been trained in Cuba or the USSR. They have confessed this, and it is no secret."

Asked about a faction of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] that acts in a more violent way, Torres said "we have observed that there is some dissidence."

Torres added that the dissidence is mostly tactical, saying "the dissidence is nominal because the final objective of all factions is identical."

"This means the FPMR and the other groups pursue a single goal: They are trying to overthrow the constitutional government by armed struggle," Torres said.

The prosecutor added that "the difference in their methodology concerns whether the struggle should be carried out through the uprising of the masses or through direct confrontations, etc."

Torres said some factions show greater violence but this "does not necessarily mean they are the largest factions in the country. An important FPMR faction is working on what they term mobilization of the masses, indoctrination of the masses, and defense of sectors. In other words, they have a different kind of armed struggle." [passage omitted]

Court Receives Evidence on Guerrilla Camps

PY181749 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 6 Feb 88 p 4

[Excerpt] Luis Acevedo, who is in charge of the 3d Military Court, recently received evidence on the existence of guerrilla training centers in the higher El Arrayan [not further identified].

The military prosecutor already had received information in this regard following the discovery last week in El Arrayan of a suitcase containing three Sterling machine guns. This prompted the prosecutor to order raids and other actions in the Andean foothills.

These actions, which were carried out by members of the GOPE [Special Operations Group], have allegedly yielded positive results and led to the arrest of several persons. [passage omitted]

More Arrests in FPMR Terrorist Cell Case Noted

PY181818 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 10 Feb 88 p C-7

[Excerpt] Lieutenant Colonel (J) Lorenzo Andrada, head of the 1st Military Precinct Court, has indicted four people on charges of being members of a Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] cell which participated in the burning of buses and robberies of shops, and which is responsible for widespread damage to public and private property.

Brother and sister Cecilia and Oscar Cid are to be tried under Article 8 of the Guns Control Law (assisting); Raul Prieto and Luis Orellana were indicted for crimes under

Articles 8, 5, 6, 9, and 11 of the same law. These articles deal with carrying weapons, participating with or helping armed combat groups, and illegal association, among other crimes.

Prosecutor Lorenzo Andrade also extended their incommunicado status for 5 days.

Two other people were also arrested and remain incommunicado because of their involvement in the same case. They are Roxana da Cueto Saenz and Marx Antonio Pardo Ramirez.

The six individuals were arrested by the Investigative Police for their activity in La Bandera neighborhood where, according to the report, they burned buses, participated in armed robberies of shops, and caused damages totaling more than 40 million pesos. [passage omitted]

Terrorist Bomb Attacks Cause Blackouts

PY181757 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Terrorist attacks perpetrated with explosive devices against high tension towers were the cause of a blackout that affected the central and northern regions. This information was disclosed by the National Electric Power, Inc, ENDESA, and CHILECTRA [Chilean Electricity Company, Ltd].

CHILECTRA disclosed that the electricity supply to some sectors of the metropolitan area will not be restored until the damaged equipment has been repaired.

According to a police report several high tension towers were destroyed by bomb attacks that caused a blackout that coincided with the opening of the Vina del Mar music festival. [passage omitted]

ENDESA issued a communique reporting that the power cut that affected several areas was caused by bomb explosions but that specialized personnel swiftly made the necessary repairs. [passage omitted]

It is also reported from Talca that a high tension tower was destroyed by terrorists at dawn today in (Perkins) sector, 7 km [words indistinct] San Clemente, Talca Province.

Carabineros personnel deactivated four bombs that had been planted at the base of another high tension tower of the Colbun-Alto Jahuel line. During this operation Carabineros seized 8 kg of ammonium gelignite, 15 meters of fuse, 40 meters of slow fuse, 2 mechanical detonators, and homemade explosive devices. [passage omitted]

Further on Attacks

PY182119 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1619 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Santiago, 18 Feb (AFP)—A Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) source has telephoned the media in Santiago, claiming that they are responsible for the blackout in central and southern Chilean cities last Wednesday.

The objective was to sabotage the broadcasting of the famous song contest in the beach resort of Vina del Mar.

The FPMR, allegedly a branch of the clandestine PCCh, is the most important guerrilla organization confronting the military regime of President Augusto Pinochet.

The FPMR source said the blackout, which occurred during the opening ceremony of the Vina del Mar song contest, was caused by bombings of both rural and urban high-tension electric towers and powerlines.

In Vina del Mar, 110 km northwest of Santiago, on the Pacific coast, the blackout affected many districts but it did not affect the building where the song contest is being held because it has its own generators.

In previous years radio and television broadcasts of this contest, which is held every year, were occasionally interrupted by this type of subversive action.

Bomb Attacks Reported in Concepcion

PY172101 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1425 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] Santiago, 17 Feb (TELAM-ANSA)—A series of bomb attacks against police, public, and bank buildings were carried out in Concepcion, the third most important city of the country.

Police sources today reported that the attacks were directed against bank buildings, railroad tracks, and municipal buildings downtown, causing material damage but no casualties.

Ecuador

President Terms Blandon's Remarks 'Nonsense'

PA191250 Paris AFP in Spanish 0524 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Guayaquil, 11 Feb (AFP)—Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero described as "nonsense" remarks by Jose Blandon, former Panamanian consul in New York, who said General Manuel Antonio Noriega helped Ecuadoran security forces discredit Abdala Bucaram, Ecuadoran Roldosist Party presidential candidate.

Blandon, who appeared at a U.S. Senate committee, added that the Ecuadoran Army has been infiltrated by drug traffickers and that a leader of the subversive group Alfaro Lives, Dammit, who met with Noriega in Panama City, was turned over to the Ecuadoran security agents by Noriega.

Apparently, the man is Arturo Jarrin, the group's top leader, who was found dead by security agents later in Quito.

Referring to Blandon's remarks, Febres Cordero said he was "astonished over what some people will do to gain publicity."

In addition, Bucaram this afternoon announced a legal suit against the Ecuadoran Government at the Supreme Court of Justice for the government's alleged connection with the Panamanian Government to discredit him.

Bucaram finished second among 10 candidates in the country's recent elections and will participate in the second and final round of elections against Democratic Left candidate Rodrigo Borja.

Febres Cordero rejected the existence of a relationship between his government and Noriega and between the Ecuadoran Armed Forces and drug traffickers.

The president said: "If there were a South American country that has combatted drug traffic radically and vigorously, it would be Ecuador."

He added: "I have been surprised by the large number of nonsensical remarks (uttered by Blandon). It appears to me a serious matter for the U.S. Congress to give the floor to a man like that."

Bucaram said that in addition to filing a suit against the government at the Supreme Court of Justice, he has asked the Ecuadoran Congress chairman, Social Democratic Jorge Zavala, to form a commission to investigate the statements by Blandon, who has been removed by Noriega, about the alleged collusion between the Panamanian strongman and the Ecuadoran security forces to discredit Bucaram.

Also, Ecuadoran Government Minister Heinz Moeller said here today that Blandon's remarks are "absurd." Moeller ordered an investigation "to the ultimate consequences" to clarify the matter.

Moeller said Ecuador's name will not be permitted to be used to settle the "bitter struggle" between the two groups in Panama.

Bucaram, detained for presumed illegal possession of drugs while in self-imposed exile in Panama, where he fled to escape trial both for slandering the Armed Forces and presumed irregularities while he was the mayor of Guayaquil, said he was tortured to get him involved in drug traffic. According to him, this proves there is collusion between Gen Noriega and the Ecuadoran Government.

Bucaram To Sue Government

PA171323 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Today in Guayaquil, Abdala Bucaram Ortiz, presidential candidate for the Ecuadoran Roldosist Party, announced he is suing the government for its alleged link with his imprisonment in Panama in 1987.

Bucaram will use as main evidence the statements made before the U.S. Senate by a former Panamanian official that points to the Febres Cordero government's having arranged with Panama's strongman, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, to accuse the Roldosist leader of dealing drugs.

Bucaram Ortiz, with his fiery and temperamental language, once more accused Rodrigo Borja of promoting a dirty campaign against him:

[Begin recording, in progress] ...a group of lawyers, to request the Supreme Court of Justice to bring legal suit against members of the Ecuadoran Government. The statements made by Jose Blandon—a very important person, who was Gen Noriega's confidant—cannot remain in the air. I have the evidence that I was tortured, beaten, and shocked with electricity. I even have as evidence the police photograph file number, [words indistinct] so as to finish off Abdala Bucaram. I asked for help in those days from the United Leftist Front Party, and Dr Francisco Huerta Montalvo and Dr Julio Prado Vallejo started to give me support; Dr Borja refused, revealing a selfish, cowardly, and mean attitude.

Blandon has been very, very clear: Blandon was Noriega's man and says Noriega took part in harming me, supporting the Ecuadoran Government. This is Blandon's accusation against Noriega: involving an Ecuadorean in drugs. Here we have a very serious accusation by Blandon. He implies that Noriega is directly involved in drug trafficking with Ecuadoreans. The oligarchs have been capable of anything as long as it destroys me.

Now they are carrying out a campaign trying to depict me as a wild lout. Now we hear them come up with a cassette of private conversations. They accuse me of drug trafficking, and now Dr Borja, together with the oligarchy, in a dirty, piggish, and dishonest campaign, which does not merit calling me a presidential candidate, is using low blows against my candidacy. I want the media to protest: Today Radio Sucre asked that I be killed, that a patriotic Arab be killed. No one says a word when I am slandered and [words indistinct] everyday in

the Ecuadoran press. Where is the honor of our journalists, they who have the duty to defend a future Ecuadoran president? [end recording]

Popular Democracy Supports Borja Candidacy

PA151350 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] A few minutes ago, the Popular Democracy Party decided to support Dr Rodrigo Borja Cevallos' presidential candidacy for the runoff elections. The party asked the Social Democratic candidate to reestablish democracy, respect human rights, and look after the public funds if he were elected. After several hours of deliberation, the Popular Democrats decided to support Borja instead of Abdala Bucaram.

Briefs

New Loans Obtained

Ecuadoran Finance and Credit Minister Eduardo Cabezas said Ecuador will receive $545 million in loans during the first half of 1988. Of this, $209 million will be granted by the World Bank, $122 million by the IDB, $100 million by Japan's Exim Bank, $21 million by CAF [Andean Development Corporation], and $91.5 million by governments and suppliers. [figures as heard] [Excerpt] *[Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Feb 88 PA]*

Paraguay

Official Results of National Elections Released

PY182009 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 18 Feb 88 p 8

[Excerpt] The Central Electoral Board [JEC] yesterday released the official results of the national elections that were held on 14 February. The figures that EL DIARIO published on 15 February have not changed significantly because as far as the National Republican Association [ANR, Colorado Party], the Radical Liberal Party [PLR] and the Liberal Party [PL] are concerned, the variations are insignificant percentage-wise.

According to the JEC official figures, 1,446,675 citizens were elegible to vote, of which 1,339,947, that is 92.62 percent, voted. Only 106,728, 7.38 percent, did not vote.

The ANR received 1,187,738 votes, which represents 88.64 percent of those elegible to vote by the JEC. The PLR obtained 95,500 votes, 7.12 percent, while the PL got 42,442 votes, 3.1 percent.

The JEC reported that 7,817 votes, 0.58 percent, were anulled and 6,506 votes, 0.49 percent, were blank. [passage omitted]

Church Leader Ismael Rolon Grants Interview

PY171236 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 16 Feb 88 p 24

["Summary" of interview with Msgr Ismael Rolon, head of the Paraguayan Church, by unidentified CLARIN reporter on 15 February in Asuncion]

[Text] [Reporter] Monsignor, what do you expect from John Paul II's visit next May? Can it help change the situation in Paraguay?

[Rolon] I stress the pastoral nature of this visit and an ecclesiastic commission has been set up to arrange it, but since the pope also represents the Vatican, his visit has a political side, too. Therefore, the Paraguayan Government has to participate in the organization. In our plans, we are not assuming that the effect of the visit will be fleeting but rather, that it will leave behind a social impact affecting the lives of Paraguayans.

[Reporter] When the pope visited Chile, the Vatican made the visit conditional on the end of exile for many Chileans. Have any preconditions been imposed for the pope's visit to Paraguay?

[Rolon] We have no preconditions. However, in our messages we said the Pope's visit must find us conciliated. We have made efforts, as for the freeing of Captain Ortigoza (who remained imprisoned for 25 years and 3 days). He has already served his sentence but remains under house arrest. We have obtained freedom for others without making it seem like a precondition.

[Reporter] In Chile, government repression increased after the pope's visit to that country. Do you believe this may happen here, too?

[Rolon] We will see; it is possible. We are studying the best way to react if this occurs. We nonetheless are afraid of this possibility.

[Reporter] How are the current relations between the church and the government?

[Rolon] We could say —and the Paraguayan people are our witnesses—that our relations have been under constant tension. This tension increases each time we defend human rights and freedom, and denounce injustice and violence, which have become somewhat a fashion here lately. I am speaking of violence by the police and parapolice forces. You must have seen or heard of the demonstrations of violence in the past few days. This has always concerned us.

[Reporter] What specifically do you request from the Stroessner government?

[Rolon] We simply ask that the Constitution and individual rights be respected; that the habeas corpus writ be applied, and that arrests be carried out only with a court order and not just on "orders from above." This government has invented this formula to freely carry out irregular procedures.

[Reporter] Are there problems of torture or harassment?

[Rolon] We have presented evidence with each accusation we made. In a pastoral letter in 1979 called "The Moralization of the Nation" we denounced the subnormal situation, which has now deteriorated.

[Reporter] The opposition is currently reporting electoral frauds. Does the church have any evidence of this?

[Rolon] We do not belong to any group of politicians. This has given rise to conflict because in the past we were identified as part of the political opposition.

[Reporter] But you promoted the National Accord...

[Rolon] We actually sponsored a dialogue in which all the opposition participated, as well as several organizations, but the government rejected our invitation.

[Reporter] What specifically do you think of the elections and the victory of the official sector?

[Rolon] This was all foreseen. The Paraguayan people did not support the elections enthusiastically because everything was foreseen. They knew the president was going to be reelected and that the opposition would make small gestures of disapproval.

[Reporter] What do you mean by "everything was foreseen?"

[Rolon] That we expected the results. The opposition was ready to reject what it describes as a "farce." And believe me, this is really a "farce."

[Reporter] Couldn't such a large favorable vote for the government increase suspicion of fraud?

[Rolon] These results do not change anything because we all expected them. The least these results can do is increase tension in the country. However, the important thing is the process, the path we must follow toward a change.

[Reporter] How are relations between the Church and the Armed Forces?

[Rolon] We are a bit surprised by the silence of the Armed Forces, which have not made their presence felt recently. It was the police and the "parapolice" who reacted with violence. The "parapolice" is made up of members of Colorado Party precincts.

[Reporter] Why are you surprised by the silence of the Armed Forces?

[Rolon] Their silence is hard to understand because we know the Army supports General Stroessner in his quality as commander in chief. However, they have not made a significant gesture.

[Reporter] Do you think the Armed Forces are preparing a possible transition?

[Rolon] I do not think so. I do npt think there is a political alternative, there is no figure to oppose Stroessner.

Views Interior Minister's Comments

PY182327 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 18 Feb 88 p 13

[Text] The archbishop of Asuncion today released a communique evaluating comments made by the interior minister who said "we are not very worried about the church's opinion." The document also discusses unity between the bishops and the pope.

"If they are not very worried about the church's opinion, they will not be very worried about the pope's opinion, and he is the highest priest of the church" says the communique. The document was released this morning by the Asuncion Archbishopric and is entitled: "The Opinion of the Church." In the communique, Archbishop Msgr Ismael Rolon comments on the recent remarks made by Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro.

The communique says: "The church is committed to the truth as an example and on the mandate of Jesus Christ, especially when the circumstances demand it in order to prevent the people from being confused and interpreting things incorrectly. During a news conference, the interior minister, who is also president of the Colorado Party Executive Board, said: 'We are not very worried about the church's opinion or those of the bishops or the priests.' We believe it is necesary to study that comment little by little with serenity and wisdom." The communique adds: "The church he refers to is the Catholic Church, the Roman Catholic Church, which is the church of the majority of the Paraguayan people and the official church of the Republic of Paraguay. The church's opinion reflects the thoughts and mandate of Christ, of the Gospel. Law 863/63 says: 'Article 1: The Roman Catholic Church is hereby recognized as a perfect society, therefore the free exercise of its spiritual power and jurisdiction is guaranteed.' The church's opinions always examine the moral nature of facts.

"Or the bishops or the priests...: Catholic doctrine establishes that the bishops, in communion with the sovereign pontiff; the priests, in communion with their bishops; and the faithful, in communion with their parish priests and their bishops and the pope, form the Catholic

Church. 'By divine command, the bishops have succeeded the apostles as pastors of the church. Thus, who hears them hears Christ and who despises them despises Christ and He that sent Christ' (Lumen Gentium, 20). The priests are the valid and self-denying assistants to the bishops, who have delegated their authority to the priests to govern the portion of the church entrusted them. The national clergy and the entire CEP [Paraguayan Episcopal Conference] bishops think the same, judge the same, and defend the same thing, as demonstrated in the pastoral letters and the communiques issued to the people in order for them to remain in communion with their pastors.

"...to us...: To whom? It would be good to know. Does the minister refer to the members of the current government? Or to all the members of the Colorado Party? Or to all Paraguayan people? An answer and a clarification are imporant, especially now that the visit of the pope, the head of the Catholic Church, is approaching.

"... we are not very worried: This is true. For many years, for love of the fatherland and for apostolic fervor, the opinion of the church and of the bishops remain as an unyielding watchman and as a defense against the moral corruption established in many social levels and in the public administration; against violence and the eulogy of hatred among brethren; against social and political discrimination; against injustice... We know and we laud the projects of material progress. However, we are aware that true peace and development does not merely consist of having asphalt highways, giant hydroelectric dams, satellite communications...but of having truth, justice, liberty, and love prevail. Pope Paul VI has taught that 'true development for every one of us involves passing from less humane conditions to more humane conditions' (Popularum progressio, 20).

"Thus, if they are not very worried about the church's opinion, they will not be very worried about the pope's opinion either, because the pope is the high pastor of the church. A simple and popular formula to recognize the legitimacy and truthfulness of the opinion of the church and of the bishops is to investigate, with sincerity and without political fanaticism, if what the church claims is correct or not; if what the church claims actually happens. An honest and intelligent man will admit the truth," the communique concludes.

Government Seeks To Renegotiate Foreign Debt

PY171831 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 17 Feb 88 p 11

[Text] According to an expert from the private sector who has commented on the recent trip of the Paraguayan finance under secretary to France to renegotiate part of the debt contracted for the building of the national hospital, the maturity date of important credits for turnkey projects that were negotiated abroad on "hard-term" conditions, is beginning to heavily strain Paraguay's ability to pay. The Paraguayan Government is therefore renegotiating part of these credits to lighten the burden of our balance of payments.

The expert stated that the 1988 national budget allocates 55 billion guaranies to service Paraguay's foreign debt. This amount is 89 percent higher than that allocated for the same purpose in 1987.

The expert added: "This means that every year the obligations that fall due will strain more and more our ability to pay, and if this keeps up it could create a serious situation." He said that the credits which the public sector obtained under commercial terms in the last few years are creating most of the problems because they are beginning to fall due, and the country's ability to pay is not the best due to the deficit of the trade balance and the low income of foreign currency.

The expert explained the situation with two examples: one is the debt that ACEPAR [Paraguayan Steel] has with the Bank of Brazil and the other is the debt contracted with a French bank to build the national hospital. Regarding ACEPAR, a request to extend the maturity date of the debt in order to lighten the burden was submitted to the Bank of Brazil, but the results of the negotiations were not made public. ACEPAR is certainly not able to pay the interests on its debt. Therefore, negotiations are underway to extend the deadline.

Two high-level officials of the Finance Ministry recently traveled to France to discuss better conditions for the payment of a debt recently contracted with the Bank of Europe. They will seek to renegotiate 73 percent of the original loan of $54.8 million.

The expert said that, strangely enough, the most troublesome loans are the ones contracted to finance turnkey projects because they are hard loans and are negotiated without any previous bids, thus contradicting the prevailing laws. He remarked that these loans are granted under terms that are very hard on our ability to pay due to high interest rates and the short repayment term.

Peru

Bank President Durant Named New Justice Minister

PY181338 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0325 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Report on interview with new justice minister, Gonzalo Durant Aspillaga, with unidentified reporter, date and place not given]

[Text] Gonzalo Durant Aspillaga, current president of Central Mortgage Bank, will succeed Carlos Blancas as the Justice Minister. This was confirmed by Durant Aspillaga himself. Durant will be sworn in by the president during a ceremony at Government Palace at 1100 tomorrow.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] [in progress]...that you will be sworn in at 1100 tomorrow?

[Durant] This was a surprise to me because [words indistinct] what a minister can do. I think it is a great responsibility, and I accept it only because it is my duty to do so. I think the burden of the responsibility is much larger than the little vanity all men can have in this post.

[Reporter] With what do you expect to be dealing?

[Durant] There are many problems. This is a very difficult portfolio. There are serious problems, like the prisons. This is a great burden on the shoulders of the ministry.

[Reporter] Regarding the subject of nationalization of the private financial sector, do you think mistakes were made, or do you think something could have been done to avoid delays in the law's implementation?

[Durant] There is an old saying that men are not made for laws, but rather, laws are made for men. Things that should be corrected in the laws must be corrected. Mankind should come first in the state, as some of the first articles of our Constitution dictate.

[Reporter] Do you think the government should change anything in the bank nationalization law?

[Durant] The law states that the president has the power to see to the law's implementation. I have not been sworn in yet, so I cannot answer that question.

[Reporter] You will be very close to the president to advise him on these matters.

[Durant] It seems so. The president has many other advisers who are much more competent than I am.

[Reporter] How do you see the penal situation?

[Durant] It is bad. Criminality has increased. Terrorism will be one of our main concerns. We must deal with terrorism with the full weight of the law.

[Reporter] Have you thought about your assistants? For instance, have you thought about the next president of the National Penitentiary Institution, or the other officials who will complement you in your job?

[Durant] This has been a total surprise to me. The president called me yesterday to offer me the job. I asked him for time to think about it but he said there was no time. Within my party, the responsibility [words indistinct].

[Reporter] How did the president receive the offer?

[Durant] I do not know.

[Reporter] I mean you.

[Durant] I accepted this offer because I have an obligation to the party and to the nation because political parties [words indistinct]. [end recording].

Uruguay

Foreign Minister Iglesias Named IDB President

PY190015 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Uruguay's Enrique Iglesias was elected today as the new IDB president. He will assume his post on 1 April.

Iglesias was elected by a unanimous vote during a special meeting of IDB governors. The meeting was held behind closed doors. [passage omitted]

Concerned Over UK Maneuvers

PY131223 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias has told high-ranking British officials that his government is concerned over the military maneuvers the United Kingdom plans to carry out in the South Atlantic in March.

Minister Iglesias said that such exercises will not help ease tensions in the region, but rather will harm the Uruguayan goal of turning the region into a zone of peace.

The Uruguayan foreign minister is in London participating in a seminar on economic growth.

ROC Closes Embassy, Envoy Departs Country

PY110015 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The ambassador of the Republic of China has left Uruguay. Before leaving for Taipei, Henry Wang said that Taiwan will not maintain an office of a charge d'affairs in Montevideo. In a letter that Wang handed over to friends who went to bid him farewell, the ambassador said, among other things: I am leaving comforted by the numerous messages of support received from civic leaders, lawmakers and representatives of various productive sectors who believe that the Executive Branch has made a wicked foreign policy decision, contrary to the feeling of most of the Uruguayan people. This decision has led to the severance of relations between the Republic of China and Uruguay. [passage omitted]

Briefs

GDP Figures Revealed

Uruguayan Finance and Economy Minister Ricardo Zerbino said during a news conference that the GDP grew by 5 percent during 1987, and that he expects it to grow by 4 percent in 1988. [Excerpt] *[Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 13 Feb 88 PY]*

Venezuela

Defense Minister Explains Call-Up of Reserves

PA131715 Paris AFP in Spanish 0403 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Caracas, 12 Feb (AFP)—For the first time in 25 years, Venezuela has called up military reserves. Reservists are to report to their stations on 27 and 28 February, Defense Minister General Eliodoro Guerrero Gomez confirmed today.

Guerrero denied the call-up is related to the intensification of military operations in the western part of the country, following increasing violence in neighboring Colombia and kidnappings and other Colombian guerrilla incursions in the border areas.

"It is a normal and routine activity in almost all the world. It is also done in Colombia. The call-up is simply in accordance with the law on military conscription and enlistment," Guerrero explained.

Members of the 1982 class of reserves must appear at the military enlistment centers or civil or military commands closest to their home, where information such as their home and work addresses will be recorded. They can then return to their regular jobs, Gen Guerrero explained.

General Humberto Seijas, Armed Forces General Staff chief of personnel, said this is the first mobilization test, "because just as in any other civilized country, the Armed Forces must be prepared to deploy their reserves in an emergency."

The last mobilization of this sort took place in 1963, a year when communist-leaning urban and rural guerrillas posed a strong threat to the government.

Guyana

Hoyte Wins Libel Suits Against Catholic Paper

FL181751 Bridgetown CANA in English 1935 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 17, CANA—The Guyana Court of Appeal on Wednesday ordered the CATHOLIC STANDARD newspaper and its editor, Father Andrew Morrison, to pay President Desmond Hoyte Guyana 105,000 dollars as damages in two libel suits.

The court, presided over by chancellor of the judiciary, Keith Massiah, upheld two appeals filed by Hoyte. It reversed a decision by the trial judge in the high court and increased the damages awarded in the other case.

In what has become known as the tie dye case, the CATHOLIC STANDARD, an official organ of the Roman Catholic Church that is edited by Jesuit Priest Morrison, had accused the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) of fraudulently obtaining a grant of close to three-quarter million dollars (one Guyana dollar-10 U.S. cents) from the United Nations.

The paper has alleged in its July 25, 1982 issue that the PNC obtained the money by telling the United Nations resident representative in Guyana that the Women's Revolutionary Socialist Movement, an arm of the PNC, was a part of the Ministry of National Development which was then under the control of Hoyte, at the time vice president (national development).

At the high court, Trial Judge Desiree Bernard ruled in favour of Hoyte and awarded him Guyana 12,000 dollars as damages. The president, however, appealed the court's decision contending that the amount awarded for the very grave libel was unjustifiably low and based on wrong legal principles.

Chancellor Massiah, sitting with Justices of Appeal Rudolph Harper and Aubrey Bishop, upheld the president's appeal and increased the damages awarded from 12,000 dollars to 30,000 dollars.

Bernard, at the high court, had thrown out another action filed by Hoyte against Morrison and the CATHOLIC STANDARD for an article published on July 25, 1982 alleging that attempts were being made to strangle the local private sector.

Senior Counsel Rex Mckay representing President Hoyte had asked the court to find [words indistinct] construed as an allegation that the Guyana Government's policy as regards the private sector was hypocritical and/or deceitful and that based on evidence before the court, though Hoyte was not named in the report, the allegation could have been reasonably referrable to Hoyte who was then the relevant minister (a vice-president) responsible for private sector matters.

The trial judge had ruled that the matters complained about were nct referrable to the plaintiff. She had also held that defence had established a good case based on fair comment and she threw out the matter. However, contending that the trial judge's decision was erroneous in point of law, Hoyte appealed that decision as well and asked that it be reversed.

The three member panel of judges headed by the chancellor reversed the high court's decision and ordered Morrison and the 83-year old weekly to pay Hoyte 75,000 dollars as damages.

In both cases, the three appelate judges were unanimous in their written decisions.

WPA Issues Statement on Rodney Inquest

FL181746 Bridgetown CANA in English 1503 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 16, CANA—The opposition Working People's Alliance (WPA) has criticised the just-concluded inquest into the death of one of its founders, Dr. Walter Rodney, declaring it was held for demonstration only.

The alliance said in a statement issued a few hours after the end of the inquest Monday that Coroner Edwin Pratt was stubbornly unwilling to allow more time for arrangements to be made for a personal court appearance by Donald Rodney, brother of the late Dr. Rodney, who now lives in Britain.

The inquest has turned out to be a demonstration inquest to get it out of the way and for the record...a proper inquest into Walter Rodney's death is yet to be held, the WPA added.

The inquest came nearly eight years after Dr. Rodney died in a bomb explosion while in a car with his brother in Georgetown. The Coroner's Jury ruled that the death was either by accident or misadventure.

Roodnauth Singh, senior counsel, overseeing the interest of the Rodney family at the inquest, withdrew from the proceedings after Coroner Pratt refused to grant more time for Donald Rodney to appear, and after he rejected submissions that the court should facilitate the return of other witnesses from abroad, to give evidence.

The WPA said that it has verbatim records of proceedings at the inquest, and has promised to turn over these records to a competent panel for evaluation.

The WPA will take care to see that those who compile the (U.S.) State Department's human rights reports have tended to show an improvement in Guyana's human rights record ever since the death in the summer of 1985 of President Forbes Burnham.

PLO To Establish Embassy in Georgetown

PA181348 Paris AFP in Spanish 0520 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Georgetown, 17 Feb (AFP)—The PLO will establish an embassy in Guyana, government sources confirmed today.

According to the sources, a PLO delegation is in Georgetown and has concluded discussions with the Guyanese Foreign Ministry to establish the mission.

The embassy will have a charge d'affaires and a nonresident ambassador.

Suriname

Soviet Ship Conducts Research Activities

FL172002 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] A Soviet research vessel left Suriname yesterday after spending 4 days in the country.

While in Suriname, the crew carried out measurements of the water temperature at a depth of 5,000 meters and also did some research on the salt content and density of the water.

The research is being carried out to possibly predict weather patterns in the Soviet Union. The results of this research will be sent to the hydrography section of the Navigation Department in Suriname. As a result of this, Suriname can improve its navigation charts.

The vessel is now on its way to west Africa to carry out similar researches.

Clashes Contribute to Outbreak of Malaria

FL171941 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] As a result of the clashes in the past few months, a serious outbreak of malaria has been reported in Suriname, with the exception of Paramaribo.

This was told to our newsroom by Dr Miranda, head of the Diakonessenhuis Hospital, who is also the coordinator of the medical missionary [as heard] in the interior. Dr Miranda said that contagious diseases such as tuberculosis and measles were identified because, among other things, vaccination campaigns could not be carried out. Due to the fightings over the past few months, the medical mission could hardly work in the upper Marowijne area. Communications links among the 42 posts have been severed and the transport of medications and patients have been stagnated.

Another problem is to find personnel to man these posts while the disease could not be controlled because of the migration of the people from these areas, according to Dr Miranda.[sentence as heard]

The medical mission has made an inventory of the medical and material damage to the posts in a project to effect reconstruction and resumption. If the infrastructure is good, climatic conditions are suitable, and there are guarantees for peace and safety, then it's technically possible to repel the disease in a very short time, said Dr Miranda.

Medical Team Dispatched

FL171912 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] Today a team from the medical mission and the Department of Public Health, (BOG), will travel to Corneliskondre because of the serious malaria situation there.

According to Dr (Legiman), head of the medical mission of the Evangelical Brotherhood of Suriname, (Madiseps), 150 persons will be examined and treated immediately. The malaria situation will immediately be evaluated so that measures could be taken.

According to Dr (Legiman), cases in which people who are infected and leave the areas are problematic. Pokigron in the upper Marowijne has such cases and is also an area with many malaria patients.

Treatment in the remaining malaria areas is not possible because of poor flight connections. This situation has come about since the hijacking of the missionary at the [words indistinct] on October 29th last year.

Yesterday, Public Health Minister Alimahomed and the medical mission held discussions on plans for resumption of activities. Because of the extent of the problem and the need for resumption of working activities shortly, discussions will be continued.

Foreign Currency Shortage Affects Students Abroad

FL171949 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] After the intervention of two ministers, the Central Bank has recently remitted foreign currency to about 160 Surinamese students who are studying abroad. This has solved the problem of the students for the time being.

Because of the shortage of foreign currency in the country, the students have already gone through some rough times. However, the government has now been able to allocate grants for those students studying abroad. Some foreign institutions have even threatened to remove the students.

The ministers of education and finance are currently holding discussions with the Central Bank on ways of paying off the arrears.

Most of the students study in Holland, Brazil, and the Soviet Union.

Trade Minister Announces Open Economic Policy

FL171926 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] Transport, Trade, and Industry Minister Grep announced an open economic policy which will have positive effects on the population. He made the announcement in talks with the labor movement.

In the final months of the previous minister, a strained relationship had developed between the labor movement and the head of the ministry. Minister Grep has asked for time and space to study the situation before taking a decision.